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CHILEAN 'INTRUSION' IN SOUTHERN ISLANDS PROTESTED

PY040215Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0005 GMT 4 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Feb--Argentina delivered a formal protest to Chile over the appointment of coastal wardens [alcaldes de mar] on some islands of the southern area, a San Martin Palace source reasserted tonight.

In the note, which was delivered yesterday to Chilean Ambassador Rene Rojas Galdames, a most firm protest is expressed for the mentioned appointments, "since it means an inadmissible administrative intrusion in a territory of exclusive Argentine sovereignty, Argentina being the only state, therefore, empowered to make appointments of public officials in the region."

According to the source, Argentina stated to Chile that Argentina does not and will not recognize any right or power which these individuals intend to use and that it reserves the right to take such measures as deemed appropriate to assure the defense of the Argentine interests in the southern area.

This note originated because of another note signed by the Chilean representative to the arbitration court, Jose Miguel Barros, the secretary of the organization, Professor Cahiers [as received], in which the Chilean Government reported to the court the steps taken to implement the decision and asked the court whether other steps were needed to fulfill it, although Chile stated that no additional measure was needed. A copy of this note, which was sent on 10 January, was delivered to the Argentine representative to the arbitration court, Ambassador Julio Barboza.

The Chilean Government firmed up its decision by establishing guard posts and signals not only on the Nueva, Picton and Lennox islands, which were awarded to Chile by the arbitration court, but also on others: Hornos, Deceit, Freycinet, Herschel and Wollaston islands.

PINOCHET WANTS DELAY IN MEETING WITH VIDELA

PY031909Y Buenos Aires Radio El Mundo in Spanish 1500 GMT 3 Feb 78 PY

[Text] President Rafael Videla is meeting with his cabinet to report to them on the course of the negotiations with Chile. It has been learned that in the letter which President Augusto Pinochet wrote to his Argentine colleague, he cited the Argentine decision to irrevocably nullify the Beagle Channel arbitral decision as a valid reason for postponing their meeting, because it introduces an (?unexpected) factor into the whole issue. [passage indistinct].

The reason given for this postponement is surprising, since President Videla told President Pinochet of the Argentine decision to reject the arbitral decision when they met at the Plumerillo Air Base in Mendoza. And it is more surprising still, considering that President Videla's letter to President Pinochet stated that the point of departure for the negotiations would be the nullification of the arbitral decision. [passage indistinct]

MONTES DISCUSSES BEAGLE TALKS IN INTERVIEW

PY031452Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1225 GMT 3 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 3 Feb--"The Argentine Government's goal has been peace through understanding.

To achieve that goal, it has resorted to all kinds of diplomatic moves; it has tried all the avenues for dialog; and it has acted strictly within the best diplomatic practice."

That statement was made by Argentine Foreign Minister Rear Adm Oscar Antonio Montes, who also reaffirmed Argentine sovereignty and rights on the south Atlantic, adding that Argentina will take the necessary measures to defend them.

In an interview with the Cordoba newspaper LOS PRINCIPIOS in Buenos Aires, the minister said that before declaring the nullification of the arbitral decision, the Argentine Government not only carefully and conscientiously analyzed the decision of the tribunal, but also consulted the opinion of qualified Argentine international law experts.

He said that the nullification declared by our government is based on serious and weighty legal and political arguments, and that it is justified by the grievous and repeated mistakes, omissions and abuses contained in the arbitral decision, which gravely violates Argentine interests and rights. He explained that the nullification did not and will not interfere with the talks between the presidents of Argentina and Chile, and that the recent trip to Santiago by the secretaries general of the three services was proof that the nullification was not impairing negotiations.

He revealed that the members of this mission carried with them the draft of the document which will be signed by the two presidents at their next meeting, as well as Argentine proposals on the breadth and mechanisms for the upcoming bilateral negotiations. He also pointed out that the Argentine Armed Forces have at no time done anything but carry out maneuvers scheduled in the yearly military program, as ordered by their superiors.

Montes repeated that no unscheduled military maneuvers were staged at any time, and that information to the contrary which circulates abroad is unfounded or at least distorted.

The foreign minister said that a date for the next meeting between Presidents Videla and Pinochet was never officially set, and that it will depend on the negotiations being carried out in Chile by the secretaries general of the armed forces. He said later negotiations are to be held on the basis of two committees and that within 30 days the "smaller committee" will issue the rules and conditions under which the second committee will operate.

Montes said that the second committee, which will be called the "expanded committee," will have 210 days after its creation to issue its conclusions. According to the newspaper, however, this expanded committee will only have 180 days to decide on definite and stable limits in the Beagle Channel--a decision to be made by this committee alone, without the intervention of third countries, the foreign minister said in conclusion.

Negotiating Committee Members Named

PY041836Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1102 GMT 4 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 3 Feb--Argentina has named the three military officers who will serve on the smaller of the two committees which will negotiate the southern delimitation issue with Chile, government sources disclosed here tonight. Those designated are Gen Adgardo Nestor Calvi, Rear Adm Jorge Demetrio Casas, and Brig Gen Pablo Osvaldo Apella.

DELEGATES BRIEF JUNTA ON TALKS IN CHILE

PY041335Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 4 Feb 78 PY

[Text] The military junta met yesterday for more than an hour to hear the report of the secretaries general of the armed forces concerning the conclave they held on Thursday with their Chilean counterparts in Santiago. The report is contained in a communique which was disclosed a little after 0930 in the Condor building. The document says:

The military junta met today at 0800 at the air force command to hear the report made by the secretaries general of the armed forces concerning the talks held Thursday, 2 February, in Santiago, Chile. The minister of foreign affairs and worship participated in the meeting, which ended at 0915.

MILITARY DENIES REPORTS OF LANUSSE ARREST

PY041453Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 3 Feb--Military sources have denied press reports that Lt Gen Alejandro Agustin Lanusse is under arrest.

ARGENTINA, UK BRIEF WALDHEIM ON MALVINAS TALKS

PY031935Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0625 GMT 3 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Feb--Argentina and the UK have briefed the UN secretary general on the progress of the negotiations regarding the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands, according to an EFE report. The report added that the permanent representatives of the two countries, Ivor Richard for Great Britain and Enrique J. Ros for Argentina, notified the United Nations that the working groups will meet in the near future to discuss political relations, including sovereignty and economic cooperation.

It was reported that the notes--which meet UNGA Resolution No 31/49 dated 1 December 1976, and ratified last year--enclosed a joint communique issued after the meeting of the delegations of the two countries held in December 1977 at the United Nations. At this meeting it was decided to establish the two working groups and also that the delegations had to meet again during the second 1978 quarter.

The EFE cable ended by stating that the notes did not indicate whether there was an agreement on the place, composition and date of the meeting of the working groups, which must carry out thorough and detailed studies, as required for the next round of negotiations.

SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON PARANA RIVER TALKS

PY031826Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0123 GMT 3 Feb 78 PY

[Text] When asked about a statement attributed to Mauro Moreyra, director of Brazilian Power Companies, Inc. [ELETROBRAS], an Argentine Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Argentina will act responsibly at the tripartite meeting to be held in Asuncion, taking proposals and documents related to the agenda to be discussed, and that Argentina expects the other countries to act the same. The Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that the holding of negotiations in itself presupposes a desire and a political interest in an understanding among the three countries regarding hydroelectric exploitation of the River Plate Basin.

He added that it is therefore natural that their representatives specify their countries' pertinent positions and proposals during the negotiations, to harmonize the interests at stake. As for the contradictory reports from Brazil and Paraguay about the date of the meeting, he said that in accordance with the foreign ministers' agreement, this meeting should be held during the second half of Feburary after the presidential elections in Paraguay. Consequently, he noted, everything seems to indicate that there will be no reason to postpone this meeting, and it can be said that it will be held on 20 February.

The spokesman did not confirm whether the meeting will be at the foreign minister level or at the chief of department level. He was consulted because of the statement issued by Itamaraty spokesman Lampreia, who said that the meeting may be held at the chief of department level.

With regard to the meeting, despite the fact that it will be exclusively political, and not technical, as were the previous ones, there are still some pending issues to be discussed. Therefore, Argentine Foreign Ministry sources reported a few days ago that it will be held at the ambassadorial level or lower. In the statement which occasioned journalists' questions, the ELETROBRAS director said the meeting would be held on 2 March and that Brazil would demand a height no higher than 100 meters for Corpus Dam. The Argentine Foreign Ministry spokesman, however, declined to comment on this.

GOVERNMENT RELEASES NAMES OF 703 DETAINEES

PY041159Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1150 GMT 4 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 4 Feb--In accordance with express orders from the nation's president and the announcement made 23 December, 1977, the Interior Ministry yesterday issued the first list of those detained at the disposition of the executive branch. The list includes 703 persons, 672 women and 31 men, who were quartered at detention center No 2 in Villa Devoto on 25 January 1978. Additional lists will be disclosed during the next few days, and the place of detainment of the people on the lists will also be reported.

The Interior Ministry also reported that seven persons were released from their detention at the disposition of the executive branch between 27 January and 3 February. During the same period, eight were authorized to leave the country and one person was arrested.

RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON RETIRED OFFICERS

PY041430Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 4 Feb 78 PY

[Text of communique issued 3 February by Brig Gen Reynaldo Benito Antonio Bignone, secretary general of the army]

[Text] The commander in chief of the army informs all retired military personnel that regulations have been adopted concerning procedures to be followed before public statements are made to the news media. They are to be followed by all the institutions members. These regulations may be obtained at the chief of the Office of Personnel, G-1, at the General Staff Office, or at all garrison headquarters in the interior.

SPANISH CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWS BANZER ON ELECTIONS

LD031319Y Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 28 Jan 78 p 4 LD

[Correspondent Angel Luis de la Calle interview with Gen Hugo Banzer, president of Bolivia, in the Quemado Palace: "'The Armed Forces Will Respect the Election Results!"--date of interview not given]

[Text] General Banzer is a slight man, of frail appearance. He speaks, however, with tremendous self-confidence. The soberness of his study is surprising, being smaller than the family drawing rooms of the majority of Spaniards. He is lively and likeable and does not evade replying to any question. He answered one by one the 14 questions formulated in a prior questionnaire by EL PAIS. When we spoke of the partisan atomization in Bolivia at this time of elections, we reminded him that something similar had happened in Spain during the first months following Franco's death. The president jocularly commented on the unquestionable Spanish legacy.

"When we military men accede to power, it is very difficult to make us give it up"

He was very critical of the role of the armed forces in governing countries in any part of the world when we pointed out to him that the Bolivian process had caused admiration and surprise in Western democracies. "I know," he said, "that when we military men accede to power, it is very difficult to make us give it up. We almost always have to be thrown out. Here we do not want this to happen. We want to go back to our barracks to fulfill our institutional role and hand over power to whomever is elected. But, of course, with a country in social peace." This is the outcome of the interview.

EL PAIS: The Bolivian Government's decision to hold a general election next July was perceived throughout the world as something rather unusual and as an example of your political vision. Recently, however, fears have been entertained that this process might be interrupted. What is your opinion on this?

President Banzer: The armed forces guarantee the continuity and correctness of the electoral process. The decision to hold elections was not the fruit of an emotional impulse but of mature reflection.

EL PAIS: In the opinion of political observers the recent episodes related to the hunger strike of 1,300 people in six Bolivian cities have weakened the position of the Bolivian Government. Do you feel yourself to be the president of a government overcome by these conjunctural circumstances?

Banzer: On the contrary, the solution provided by the government to the hunger strike and the full restoration of trade union freedoms, as well as the lifting of other emergency measures, show that the government maintains the full weight of its authority.

EL PAIS: Do you believe that the program drawn up by the government for a general election to be held next July can be carried out in its entirety under the present circumstances?

Banzer: The events of recent days are not part of the normal life in the country but are exceptional circumstances. To suppose that this state of affairs could continue indefinitely would be tantamount to admitting that on the part of some groups of people there does not exist a sincere intention to democratize the country, which is something I cannot believe.

EL PAIS: At first there seemed to be an intention on your part to stand as a candidate in the said elections. What were the reasons which prompted you to rule out that possibility? Was there any recommendation to that effect on the part of your comrades in arms?

Banzer: I believe that I have done my duty to my country by presiding for more than 6 years over a government of reconstruction, social peace, order and creative labor, whose results have been striking. This explains why many sections of opinion and institutions have favored my name as candidate for the presidency of the republic.

However, as I put it on turning down that nomination, I believe that the time has come to give way to new generations of Bolivians, who have demonstrated in practice their ability and integrity in managing the national interests. This was a spontaneous personal decision.

"I do not deny the existence of individual views opposed to constitutionalization"

EL PAIS: There is talk in some circles of serious divisions deep within the Bolivian Armed Forces regarding the process of political normalization in Bolivia. Could you, as commander in chief of the armed forces, clear up this point?

Banzer: The decision to constitutionalize the country came specifically from the armed forces, and under those circumstances they could hardly oppose institutionally the process which they themselves initiated. I do not deny the existence of individual, isolated views opposed to a return to constitutionalization but, if they exist, they do not reflect a consensus.

EL PAIS: A few weeks ago a document signed by retired officers of the armed forces was published, which picked up some of the concepts of the government over which you preside. Could you comment on the significance of this document?

Banzer: Wide-ranging freedom of opinion and public expression has existed in Bolivia for many years. The document of the retired officers that you mention reflects this situation. The right to dissent has been respected scrupulously by my government, insofar as this dissent is not aimed at generating violence. I do not believe that this is so in the case of the signatory officers, almost all of whom have held posts in ministries and embassies and other posts of greater responsibility during my government.

EL PAIS: Some of the demands by the persons and groups which took the chief role in the recent hunger strike have been conceded by your government, like a broad amnesty, trade union freedom and the possibility of exiles returning to Bolivia. However, the same groups insist on other demands, like the repeal of the law on state security and the removal of the military presence from mining areas. What is your stand on this?

Banzer: The repeal of the law on state security, which was not passed by my government, seems a logical consequence of the process initiated by the calling of elections, the general amnesty and the lifting of the restriction imposed on political and trade union activities. The liberalization process will thus lead to a plenary stage. As for the presence of military forces in some mining centers, I can see no reason for this to cause disquiet or anxiety. To accept the need to withdraw military units from the mining centers or from any other part of the country would mean also accepting that their presence constitutes a danger or a threat, which is absurd.

There has not been even the most minor incident recorded in the years since the army troops have been stationed in various mining districts.

"The law will come down on those who seek to return to unleashing violence"

EL PAIS: Leaders of political parties insist on asserting that they will not consider the electoral process announced for July to be orthodox if the demands cited in the last question are not accepted, and if the candidacy of General Pereda, which they describe as OFFICIALIST, is not withdrawn. What can you say about this? Banzer: Throughout the history of the country, and on the eve of elections, the opposition political parties have systematically concurred in declaring to the government in advance that optimum conditions for them to be able to win do not exist. The elections will be won or lost. Many of the parties which are in opposition today were once in government and were the target for similar accusations and demands at the time of elections.

EL PAIS: Is there any kind of restriction on the participation of political parties in the election process, according to the plans of the government which you head? Banzer: Since a general amnesty has been decreed, all citizens whatever their persuasion, will clearly be able to take part in the election process. Nevertheless, the calling of elections must entail acceptance of the rules of the democratic game. If there are still people who are intending to return to the country under the pretext of the elections in order to unleash terrorism and violence, you may rest assured that the law will be applied to them without hesitation.

EL PAIS: Would the Bolivian Armed Forces accept the hypothetical victory of a leftwing candidate in the July elections? Banzer: It is obvious that if the armed forces have called the elections, they are prepared to accept their outcome, whatever it may be. As you rightly say, a victory of a leftwing candidate in the July elections is quite hypothetical.

"The Bolivian experience, unique on the continent"

El PAIS: In the opinion of many observers of the political situation in Latin American, the Bolivian process is a test of the first magnitude, whose results could be applicable to other neighboring countries, such as Peru and Ecuador, which are experiencing circumstances similar to those of Bolivia. How do you view this situation? Banzer: Bolivia's recent historical experience and politcal situation are unique on the continent, and, under these circumstances, it is difficult to venture to assess to what extent our present process may be helpful to other countries. It should be recalled that Bolivia began the first Agrarian reform process in South America in 1952, and nationalized the enterprises which were exploiting most of its mineral resources. The mistakes and successes of this process subsequently influenced experiments of the same nature in other countries on the continent.

EL PAIS: In the opinion of some historians, the proces of political evolution in Spain, which has moved peacefully to democracy from a system of personal authority, is a model which is quite transferable to Latin America. Do you agree with these assessments. Banzer: Spain's process of political evolution has been followed with the greatests interest and attention by Bolivia and undoubtedly by the whole of Latin America. And I believe that we have all been pleased by the peaceful transition from a system of government such as the previous one to that which is currently in charge of the mother country's destiny. I would personally like Bolivia's political situation to develop under similar conditions, and I am confident that the great majority of party organizations under the present system, including those in opposition, share this view.

TARIJA RALLIES PROCLAIM PEREDA'S CANDIDACY

FY032349Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 28 Jan 78 p 9 FY

[Text] Tarija, 27 Jan--At two rallies held in this city today, Gen Juan Pereda Asbun was proclaimed as a candidate for the presidency in the elections to be held in July. The rallies also proclaimed him as "the firmest guarantee for the continuance of the nationalist process."

Pereda first attended a rally organized by the labor coordinators and other representative institutions, and afterward he attended a meeting organized by the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) headed by Jaime Arelland.

At the two events the official candidate gave extensive speeches in which he made several offers for the development of Tarija. "We wish to give priority to Tarija's development and for its road network to become a reality, which will strengthen its industrial infrastructure and its urban progress," he said.

He termed Tarija as "the fatherland's highest ideal" and he promised his support in order that its desires become reality.

On the other hand, Pereda strongly defended nationalism as a political alternative for the country "because it means moral revolution." He indicated that nationalism will be consolidated during the July election process and he urged the population to "win the battle of democracy and defeat chaos and indiscipline.

"Our victory is guaranteed because nationalism represents the Bolivian people," he maintained.

During the MNR rally in the neighborhood of Villa Avarda, the candidate reaffirmed these remarks and he used the slogan which identifies this party when he addressed the crown as "comrades" [companeros y companeras].

In both his speeches Pereda emphasized his fondness for Gen Hugo Banzer, whom he termed the "architect of nationalism."

He also claimed that there is an "extensive social sense in the nationalist revolution. Priority has to be given to the peasants, workers and miners, because Bolivia will be great once its majority has been incorporated into national activities."

The official candidate also stressed his criticism of extremism, and indicated that "there are groups which do not wish to admit the victory of nationalism through the elections." He cited the hunger strikes demanding an amnesty as an example.

The labor representatives and Arellano lauded Pereda in every possible way. "It is not only we ourselves who declare our support for him. General Banzer himself also does so."

Arellano said that the MNR in Tarija was again present because "it believes that it has found the man who can lead the nationalist process headed by General Banzer."

FOREIGN MINISTER REAFFIRMS OPPOSITION TO NPT

PY041510Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 3 Feb 78 p 13 PY

[Text] Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira reiterated yesterday the Brazilian opposition to signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) because the government feels the country "is morally and politically committed to nonproliferation through the Tlaltelolco treaty, which it signed and ratified."

Itamaraty spokesman Felipe Lampreia recalled that the Tlaltelolco Treaty forbids the manufacture, storage or possession of nuclear weapons on Latin American territory, and declared that this is more than enough guarantee that Brazil will not enter the nuclear race.

Silveira said that he considers the guarantees contained in the Tlaltelolco Treaty sufficient and called on the great powers to adhere to the treaty's first and second protocols. Because the great powers have not adhered to those protocols, "the treaty has not gone into effect, but not because of any fault on Brazil's part." The foreign minister stressed that Brazil will continue to demand that the great powers sign and ratify the Tlaltelolco Treaty, to prevent any of them from occasionally using Latin American territory to store military nuclear devices.

Silveira then said that "the Brazilian Government feels already fully committed to compliance with the Tlaltelolco Treaty, despite the fact that is is not yet in force."

Lampreia, the Itamaraty spokesman, also said that Foreign Minister Silveira agreed with several points in Netherlands Foreign Minister Van Der Klaauw's interview published in O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO. Lampreia said that there is no disagreement with the Brazilian position as to the possibility of reaching an agreement on safeguards within International Atomic Energy Agency statutes. He also said that there is agreement on the obligatory application of rules agreed to by Brazil and URENCO for all other countries which have not signed the NPT. As far as this is concerned, Lampreia said that "really, Brazil will not be discriminated against in this case."

Regarding the first nonofficial declarations made by the Netherlands foreign minister after his country's parliament gave its approval for the export of enriched uranium to supply the Angra 1 and 2 nuclear plants under some conditions, Foreign Minister Silveira's comment did not touch on the most sensitive points. For instance, he avoided comment on Van Der Klaauw's remark that "all the worries would disappear if Brazil were to sign the NPT." Silveira referred to this indirectly through his remarks on the obligations imposed by the Tlaltelolco Treaty.

Lampreia said that he would not make any official comment on Brazil's position after the Netherlands Parliament voted on the matter, since there was no official information from the Netherlands Government either through the Brazilian Embassy in the Hague or through the Netherlands Embassy in Brasilia. Lampreia said it was perfectly acceptable for the Netherlands to prefer to negotiate first with the FRG and Great Britain--its partners in URENCO--to work out the main points in the new package of safeguards, and to deal with Brazil only later. The Itamaraty spokesman said: "That is a valid position, a decision which does not affect us now."

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON TALKS WITH ARGENTINA

PY041321Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 4 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--The long meeting held between Chilean and Argentine military officers at the University of Chile was designed to examine the basis which, after approval by the respective governments, would permit another meeting between the presidents of both countries, according to a brief declaration delivered by the Chilean Foreign Ministry.

It was reported that the results of this bilateral consultation meeting were positive, since several points were cleared up, and it is possible that existing differences may be solved. Informed sources reiterated that, in view of Chile's unalterable position, the Beagle Channel issue and the British arbitral decision, which was declared void by the Argentine Government, were not discussed.

The delegates stressed that during the lengthy analysis held in the offices of the University of Chile, the military officers of both countries discussed the maritime delimitation included in the arbitral decision on the basis of modern law of the sea. Sources also reported that Chile has at no time suggested a postponement of the presidential meeting. The Santiago government has never mentioned any specific date or place.

According to the brief communique issued yesterday by the Foreign Ministry, the possible meeting between President Pinochet and Videla is subject to the results of the meticulous study organized by the government junta in Santiago. Therefore, it is not possible to confirm that the presidential meeting will take place within the next few days, as the Argentine press has repeatedly insisted.

PINOCHET COMMENTS ON SOVEREIGNTY

PA050118Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0055 GMT 5 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Puerto Montt, Chile, 4 Feb (AFP)--Chilean President Gen Augusto Pinochet warned here tonight that Chile is prepared to defend its sovereignty against any foreign aggression. Pinochet issued the warning during a speech delivered at the major park in Puerto Montt, 1,058 km south of Santiago. The president affirmed that his government will continue to follow the course which has been outlined for a new institutionality.

Referring to the Beagle Channel problem, he said that he had faith and hope that the differences with Argentina which emerged after the British arbitration decision--which confirmed Chilean sovereignty over the Picton, Lennox and Nueva islands--will be solved. General Pinochet asked the people to remain calm and prudent while negotiations are held to solve the maritime demarcation problem at the southern tip of the continent.

President Pinochet initiated a 10-day tour this morning through the south and far south of the country to inspect a series of public works and to inaugurate several industries. The last city which Pinochet will visit is Punta Arenas, 2,300 km south of Santiago and next to the Beagle Channel area where Chile and Argentina have an old border problem.

CTC DENIES U.S. EMBASSY 'INTERFERENCE'

PA031950Y Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 28 Jan 78 p 12 PA

[Statement by the Executive Committee of the Confederation of Workers of Colombia (CTC)]

[Text] A) If Comrade Gustavo Diaz Raga, former president of the Workers Confederation of Columbia (CTC), ever held a discussion with the U.S. Embassy labor attache on the occasion of the national civic strike, such a discussion was never authorized by the Executive Committee, and the presence of that official in the CTC offices should have been emphatically opposed.

B) The CTC is independent in its decisions and does not accept interference by anyone, either national or foreigner, not related to it. It participates in the four national confederations because it conscientiously considers that participation a means to serve the interests of the workers and popular sectors;

C) Any information insinuating that the CTC receives money from the U.S. Embassy is false and slanderous. The CTC has never received a penny from that embassy or from any other embassy.

This slanderous campaign against the CTC, unleashed by some persons, is no surprise to us. The CTC, however, has become a large organization because throughout its existence it has had to endure the attacks and insults of those who have tried to destroy it, and it has emerged unharmed. We shall continue to work in the interests of the Colombian working class.

GUERRILLAS OPPOSE ELECTIONS, OCCUPY HEALTH POST

PA031411Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 2 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The secret service in the capital continued searching today for members of a guerrilla command which today occupied a health post in the northern part of the city. For several minutes the guerrillas occupied a health post located on [word indistinct] and 22d Street, and voiced their opposition to the elections, according to the authorities.

KIDNAPED INDUSTRIALIST RELEASED IN CALI

PA041945Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2033 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Cali, Colombia, 3 Feb (AFP)--Official sources have reported that industrialist Carlos Materon, who was kidnaped here on 12 January, was released today near the town of Ruga. No details have been given on the rescue of the industrialist, but the sources said that six of his kidnapers were captured by the secret services. According to persons close to his family, the kidnapers had demanded a large ransom.

Materon's release coincided with the kidnaping of university student Rafael Esquinazi in Cali a few hours ago. Esquinazi is the son of a multimillionaire merchant. His kidnappers' demands are so far unknown.

GOVERNMENT MINISTER RETURNS FROM U.S. MEXICAN VISIT

PA041922Y Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 0030 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Government Minister Col Bolivar Jarrin Cahuenas returned to Ecuador today after carrying out an official mission in the United States and Mexico. Jarrin traveled to Houston, Texas, on 25 January and then visited Mexico. It was reported that Jarrin took advantage of his visit to the United States to undergo medical examinations by heart specialists.

Immediately upon his return to Quito, he met with Vice Adm Alfredo Poveda, president of the Supreme Council of Government.

During Jarrin's absence, Vice Minister Javier Manrique was in charge of the ministry. A reliable source said that Minister Jarrin will continue in his post, denying rumors about his alleged removal.

PAPER COMMENTS ON PERUVIAN ARMS BUILDUP

PA052122Y Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 30 Jan 78 p 6 PA

["La Provincia Internacional" column by Eddie Rodriguez B.]

[Text] A few days ago, the teletype machines of the international press agencies revealed to the world all the details of the meeting held in El Oro Province between Ecuadorean military chiefs and their counterparts from our neighbor to the south [Peru]. This meeting was the result of a scheme hatched by the chauvinist Peruvian Government to partially control the continuous strikes, work stoppages and demonstrations which are further deteriorating the supernegative image of the "Peruvian revolution." The principal newspapers of Latin America bring us detailed reports every day of the painful situation being experienced by the Peruvian people, who are weighed down by the heavy taxes and the continuous sacrifices that they must make in order to pay for the voluminous military expenditures which in 1975 climbed to the sum of $2 billion. The prices of staples as well as fuel have increased by at least 33 percent over the previous year. The deficit in the Peruvian budget has reached such critical limits ($10 billion) that the interest on loans from international credit institutions alone is $900 million. To this must be added the fact that Russia is demanding immediate payment for war materiel purchased in 1972, which includes T-55 and T-62 tanks, SAM-3 missiles and Sukhoy airplanes which, by the way, are so complicated that not even the "specialized" Peruvian pilots can fly them (one can imagine who will fly them in case of war).

We Ecuadoreans must realize that the Peruvian arms buildup is a constant threat to our territorial integrity. It would be absurd to imagine that the awesome southern army would become involved in a conflict with another country to obtain only desert when what is faltering economy needs is the rapid influx of dollars that could only come from the huge oil reserves in the eastern part of our country. All Ecuadoreans know that the Peruvian oil pipeline, which was built to transport over 300,000 barrels of oil a day, is barely carrying 50,000 barrels of oil to the oil port of Bayovar. The sum of $1 billion was invested in its construction. To ignore this fact is to close one's eyes to a conflict which sooner or later will be launched by the Peruvian imperialists, aided and abetted by Russia. At present there are over 300 European "technicians" in Peru, mainly Russians, Yugoslavs and Czechoslovaks, who are going to direct the war operations and maneuvers which the Peruvian Army is unable to handle.

Despite this growing threat, both the new policy promoted by the Ecuadorean Foreign Ministry and the position taken by the army has given the Ecuadorean citizen a feeling of overconfidence since the concept of Ecuador as a peaceful nation with a pragmatic modern vision of its offensive and defensive future has been discarded.

Peruvian chauvinism will always circulate false rumors as a means of implementing the preconceived plans for its aggressive policy that will eventually lead to war, in accordance with the basic precept of Clausewitz: "Therefore, we see that war is not simply a policital act, but is a true political instrument, a continuation of political relations and an extension of these relations through other means." This has already been pointed out by eminent international critics such as Dr Carlos Palacios S., Dr Pericles Gallegos V. and Dr Jorge Villacres M., who have taught us to be completely distrustful of the false postulates brandished by the Foreign Ministry and armed forces of Peru.

From this border point where international problems have greater impact and where, at the same time, we can observe the permanent operations of vigilance carried out by the Ecuadorean Army, we call on the rest of the country to be alert to any contingency which could endanger our fatherland.

LEVOYER INTERVIEWED ON POLITICAL REORGANIZATION PLAN

PA341755Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Gen Richelieu Levoyer, who as government minister drafted the plan to re-establish democracy which is currently being implemented, has said that the Ecuadorean people are able and desirous of living under a constitutional system. Yesterday afternoon General Levoyer was sworn in by the members of the Supreme Council of Government as secretary of the National Security Council. He replaces Gen Rafael Rodriguez Palacios.

After the ceremony at the presidential palace, General Levoyer was interviewed on the development of the legal reorganization plan. He denied that he was the sole mastermind of the plan, indicating that it was the initiative of the armed forces government. Regarding the changes that have been made in the plan, General Levoyer said that he understands that the general guidelines have been followed but that the legal and political circumstances of the country have forced some changes. Regarding the process of reestablishment of constitutional order, he said he believes that the political parties understand the great responsibility they have. I understand, he said, that the political parties are reorganizing themselves in the best possible way. General Levoyer said the following:

[Levoyer--begin recording] The mastermind of the plan was not solely myself who was government minister at that time. In reality, it was the armed forces military government headed by the three members of the Supreme Council of Government. Logically, I had the obligation to cooperate with them in this absolutely sincere idea for the reestablishment of the institutional, constitutional order in our country.

[Question] Do you believe that the changes that have been made in the institutionalization plan have not affected the democratic reorganization process?

[Answer] I understand that the general guidelines of the legal restructuring plan, which I began to implement when I was government minister, have been followed. The legal and political circumstances of the country have forced specific changes. They have enabled the country to continue on the path chosen by the armed forces government.

[Question] Are the country and the political parties ready for the coming transition?

[Answer] I still do not have an exact impression, because as you must know I have only recently arrived in the country. I believe that the political parties understand the great responsibility they have and that they are reorganizing themselves in the best possible way. We have hopes for a normal reestablishment of the constitutional system in our country. This has been the sincere desire of the armed forces government.

[Question] Are the Ecuadorean people ready and able to participate in a process for the return to a democratic system?

[Answer] I understand that the people are ready and desirous to live under a constitutional system. [end recording]

RECTOR MAY BE DURAN BALLEN RUNNING MATE

PA0116502 Quito Radio Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 1 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The rector of the State University of Guayaquil, Dr Antonio Andrade Fajardo, today admitted that he had been approached about the possibility of running for vice president of the republic on the slate with Sixto Duran Ballen, although he said that the proposal has not yet been made officially.

In answer to a question asked by the Ecuadorean Press Agency, Dr Antonio Andrade Fajardo said: Indeed, many friends have approached me to propose that I run for vice president of the republic as the running mate of Sixto Duran Ballen. Some of these friends are representatives of the political sectors which (?support) the presidential candidacy of the mayor of Quito. Dr Antonio Andrade Fajardo then said that he would not refuse a request of this type, since he believes that we Ecuadoreans should not evade responsibility, no matter how large.

SAN CARLOS SUGARMILL STRIKE SETTLED

PA0316512 Paris AFP in Spanish 1459 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guayaquil, Ecuador, 3 Feb (AFP)--A 4-month strike affecting one of the largest sugarmills in Ecuador was settled today, according to official reports here. Six thousand workers of the San Carlos refinery in the coastal province of Guayas had paralyzed all activity for over 100 days in support of their demands for better wages and other social benefits.

The strike, one of the longest and costliest in the nation's labor history, was settled with the dismissal of 28 workers who will receive compensation amounting to nearly 6 million sucres. The estimated losses amounted to 600 million sucres (some $24 million), and there was considerable destabilization of the domestic market.

During the 4-month strike, there were several clashes between strikers and the police, resulting in several injured. There also were several arson attempts that damaged some of the refinery installations.

MUNICIPAL WORKERS AGREE TO END STRIKE

PA052100Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1542 GMT 5 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 5 Feb (AFP)--The 5,000 municipal employees of the greater Lima area agreed last night to lift a strike which they have been staging since 19 January. The workers, who have staged strikes continuously since last November, have been demanding wage increases and other social benefits. Miguel Polo, secretary general of the departmental federation, said that the employees of the 39 municipalities of the greater Lima area will return to work tomorrow, Monday.

In suspending the strike, the workers took into consideration Interior Minister Gen Luis Cisneros' promise to look into ways to immediately resolve their problems. Polo also said that Mayor Arturo Cavero of the capital had proposed a wage increase, although not in the (?amount) requested.

POPULAR FRONT FOUNDED BY THREE GROUPS

PA060116Y Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 30 Jan 78 p 2 PA

[Text] A popular front (frente popular) has been established with the goal of working so Peru will advance toward "genuine socialism."

The front has been founded to participate in the constituent assembly and 1980 elections.

It is composed of the Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP), the Movement for Socialism (MAS) and the Popular Union of Peruvian Women (Union Popular de Mujeres Peruanas--UPMP), lead respectively by Angel de las Casas Grieve and Eteldrita Humala. [sentence as published]

Among other things, the front asks for general amnesty, a return of political exiles and an increase of wages and salaries.

13 PARTIES HAVE FILED FOR REGISTRATION

PA051956Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0151 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 3 Feb (AFP)--A total of 13 parties have filed for acceptance by the National Electoral Registration Board to run in the Peruvian constituent elections in June. This number was reached when four movements presented their respective petitions on the last day of registration, the deadline for which was extended 2 hours so that other movements could collect the 40,000 signatures required for registration.

The parties which accomplished this registration were the Christian Popular Party [Partido Popular Cristiano] (liberal of Christian Democratic leanings) with 154,850 signatures, the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance (APRA) with 77,777, Popular Action (liberal progressive) of former President Fernando Belaunde with 75,000, the Odriist National Union (rightist) with 68,001 and Christian Democracy (center-left) with 65,000 signatures.

These were followed by the Popular Democratic Union (Marxist-Leninist) with 53,004 signatures, the Reformist Democratic Party (rightist) of Carmen Leguia (who is reputedly the daughter of dictator Augusto Leguia) with 50,876, the Communist Party (orthodox) with 50,000 and the Peasants and Workers National Front (centrist), also with 50,000 signatures.

The list was completed by the popular, student, peasant and worker front (leftist Marxist) with 47,194 signatures, the Revolutionary Socialist Party (leftist) with 43,000, and Socialist Popular Action, a splinter of Fernando Belaunde's Popular Action (leftist) with 41,130 signatures.

LABOR LEADERS CONTINUE HUNGER STRIKE

PA031203Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2316 GMT 2 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 2 Feb (AFP)--Seven Peruvian labor leaders have entered the 6th day of their hunger strike. The strikers, who are at the Santo Domingo convent in this capital's downtown area, are demanding the rehiring of the workers dismissed for having participated in a 24-hour general strike in July on orders from two labor unions and several labor federations. They have announced that one of their colleagues had to be hospitalized 2 days ago because he was feeling weak and had a high fever. They do not know what has happened to him.

The seven strikers are in a chapel of the convent. They have been provided with emergency mattresses and blankets. They said that they have decided to continue the strike for a few more days, and that if the military government does not rehire the employees they will go on a total hunger strike and stop drinking liquids.

According to labor sources 5,000 workers were dismissed as a result of the July strike, but according to the government only 3,500 lost their jobs.

CNT LABOR LEADER DENIES FORMAL PARTY COMMITMENT

PA031916Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 31 Jan 78 p 4 PA

[Text] "The National Confederation of Workers (CNT) will become part of a front representing the left, including especially grassroots organizations and political parties such as Christian Democracy and the Socialist Revolutionary Party (PSR), among others."

That statement was made by CNT Secretary General Jorge Gallardo la Rosa, commenting on the news that Felix Reynaga, personally and without committing the CNT's national executive committee, has signed a document creating a leftist front composed of the Socialist Popular Action (AP), MAS [Movement for Socialism], the General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP) and the Peruvian Communist Party (PCP).

Referring to the CNT, Gallardo la Rosa said: "We cannot lend support to movements which at this time serve only to further the personal ambitions of certain people, who are only trying to form parties whose popular and socialist character is seriously in doubt."

"Our organization's executive has noted that the document does not express the workers' desires for a new social model to build a communitarian, humanistic, socialist and Christian society," he added.

He also said: "We will struggle for unification with the rest of the organizations that accept the contributions which the workers' movements have made to shape the social model as we, the workers, see it and want it."

PRESIDENT SAYS BREAK WITH NICARAGUA NOT BEING CONSIDERED

PA041649Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] The president of the republic has requested the intervention of the OAS Human Rights Committee in Nicaragua. The chief of state announced this during a news conference in Merida. The president added that for the time being, a rupture of relations with Nicaragua is not being considered.

Venezuela does not plan to break relations with the Nicaraguan Government, said President Carlos Andres Perez. He added that Venezuela does not plan to break off relations with Nicaragua because it does not intend to unilaterally intervene in the problems of another country. The president of the republic noted that that position is in line with the principle of nonintervention, which our country defends and advocates.

CHAMORRO'S COUSIN BEGINS HUNGER STRIKE IN VENEZUELA

PA060037Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2333 GMT 5 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 5 Feb (AFP)--Alejandro Cole Chamorro, editor of the provincial newspaper EL ARAGUENO and cousin of the late Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, began a hunger strike today in Maracay, about 100 km west of Caracas, where the newspaper is published.

Cole Chamorro's hunger strike is "in protest against the Somoza regime's repression in Nicaragua and the horrible murder of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal," a newspaper spokesman said. It was reported that Cole Chamorro, born in Nicaragua and a naturalized Venezuelan citizen, sent a message to President Carlos Andres Perez asking him to break diplomatic relations with Nicaragua.

GROUP OF 77 PRESIDENT MEETS WITH PEREZ

PA060337Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0114 GMT 6 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 5 Feb (AFP)--Donald Mills, president of the Group of 77, met here today with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. Mills said that the purpose of his meeting with Perez was to discuss the work of the group he heads (developing countries) and the North-South dialog.

The head of the international organization said he exchanged views of a general nature with the Venezuelan president, but did not work out anything in connection with the proposal made by Perez at the 50th OPEC meeting in Caracas. On that occasion, Perez proposed that OPEC raise the price of crude between 5 and 8 percent over 1977 prices, and that the proceeds of the price hike be used for 1 year to pay the debts of Third World countries belonging to the Group of 77 which do not produce oil. Oil prices were frozen, however.

CUBAN ASSEMBLY DEPUTY VISITS MEXICAN CONGRESS

FL031857Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City--(Aleida March), Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Cuban National Assembly, has been received by the highest leaders of the Mexican Congress. Deputy (March) visited the Mexican Congress installations in the company of Chamber of Deputies President Rodolfo Gonzalez Guevara and many other Mexican legislators. At the conclusion of the courtesy visit and exchange of viewpoints between leaders of the congress and Deputy (March), the Chamber of Deputies president announced that a Mexican Congress delegation has been invited to visit Havana to observe and learn the operations of the National Assembly.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON MEXICAN PEACE CONFERENCE

U.S. Imperialism Cited As Enemy

FL031648Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Feb 78 FL

[Text] In Mexico City, the continental conference for peace has today called on all democratic Latin American and Caribbean peoples and governments to close ranks against the common enemy, North American imperialism. The call is contained in the first resolution approved by the assembly, which recounts the struggles by the Latin American and Caribbean heroes who fought the establishment of tyrannies and were unanimously convinced of the need for uniting the nations and militant internationalism to achieve the integration of the former Spanish colonies.

Havana Reports on Resolution

FL042257Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2136 GMT 4 Feb 78 FL

[Text] In Mexico City, participants at the Conference for Peace, Sovereignty, and Economic Independence stated that the struggle for detente will only be fruitful if it is waged along with the battle against imperialism and for the liberation and social progress of the peoples. The statement is contained in a resolution unanimously approved today on the subject of strengthening the national committees for peace, and work methods to extend and deepen the role of the national movements for peace in every country and region.

The proposal which resulted in the resolution was presented by Elena Gil Izquierdo, head of the Cuban delegation to the conference and PCC Central Committee member. Attending the meeting are more than 200 delegates from 25 Latin American and Caribbean countries and guests from Europe, Asia and Africa.

Starting with the victory of the Cuban revolution, there have been profound changes in the situation of the countries on the American continent, and the character of organizations to which fighters for peace belong have changed. This is expressed in the Continental Conference for Peace, Sovereignty and Economic Independence resolution. The resolution adds that a large number of fighters in the Latin American and Caribbean region requires strengthening the aforementioned organizations to achieve levels of effectiveness and efficiency to prevent them from becoming a movement of simple pacifistic clamor.

The Continental Conference for Peace, Sovereignty, and Economic Independence document recounts the grave economic crisis from which world capitalism is suffering and the misery, exploitation and unemployment of the vast working masses in the region.

GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS NONINTERVENTION PRINCIPLE ON NICARAGUA

PA0501111Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1813 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Feb (EFE)--Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel said today that the internal conflict in Nicaragua "is the exclusive concern of the Nicaraguan people." Roel was replying to a query about Mexico's position on the Nicaraguan situation. He added that "Mexico maintains its principle of nonintervention" and reaffirmed that his country will not interfere in the internal affairs of other nations.

Groups of Latin American political exiles and Mexican leftist groups have expressed their solidarity with the anti-Somoza sectors in Nicaragua. Approximately 400 persons demonstrated against Gen Anastasio Somoza's government outside the Nicaraguan Embassy in Mexico City yesterday.

The Nicaraguan situation has been one of the principal subjects in the Mexican press in the last few days. The Mexican papers sent many special correspondents to Nicaragua and gave wide coverage to their reports. An important Committee of Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People operates in Mexico.

$2 MILLION CREDIT GRANTED TO JAMAICA

FL041857Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1711 GMT 4 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Mexican Government has granted a $2-million line of credit to Jamaica for the importation of basic articles, capital goods and certain manufactured goods. The agreement, signed between the Mexican Foreign Trade Bank and the Bank of Jamaica, stipulates that the line of credit will be in effect for 180 days for basic articles but more than 2 years of capital goods.

IRANIAN CULTURE MINISTER TO ARRIVE FOR VISIT

FL042118Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2106 GMT 4 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Feb (INFORMEX-ANSA)--Accepting an invitation by President Jose Lopez-Portillo, Iranian Princess Shama Pahlavi, accompanied by her husband the Iranian culture and arts minister, will arrive here next Monday.

RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S 1 FEB SPEECH ON CANAL

Official Silence on Carter Message

PA041623Y Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1220 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Panama City--Press reaction here to the message of President Carter has been favorable. A government spokesman, meanwhile, revealed that the official silence observed on the issue reflects the official stand not to interfere at a time when President Carter is making all possible efforts to gain the support of the U.S. people for the treaties and to have the U.S. Senate ratify them.

The only criticism voiced against President Carter's message came from the representatives of U.S. employees in the Canal Zone.

The Panamanian foreign minister did not comment on the speech. He said, however, that the national government is holding to a provisional policy of noninterference in the domestic policy process for ratification of the treaties in the United States.

Station Praises Fireside Chat

PA031257Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Feb 78 PA

[Station editorial]

[Text] Those of you who listened attentively to U.S. President Carter's speech on the treaties with Panama observed three noble qualities in his plain but profound statements. They were instructive, sincere and highly moral.

Perhaps the severe critics of his administration will allege that president Carter said nothing new, that he added no new arguments to those used before to obtain ratification of the Torrijos-Carter treaty. We can respond to them by saying that the arguments of truth are but a few. Truth being an invariable, the arguments supporting it can move in only one direction. That is exactly what President Carter did. He outlined the truth of Panama's history in plain, open language that was free of allusions and metaphors. This is what great leaders do when they talk to their people.

As for the instructive aspect of his speech, Carter employed the Socratic method of question and answer. He raised the questions usually presented by the opposition in connection with the treaties and, in his answers, clearly expressed his idea, noting that the Canal Zone is not owned by the United States, that Panama has an undeniable right to participate in the administration of the canal and later to assume it completely, and that, insofar as the effective defense of the canal is concerned, greater strength is shown in the approving of the new treaties than in a confrontation arising from a refusal to ratify it.

Nobody doubts the sincerity of his statements. President Carter's very nature is the best guarantee of his sincerity. Like all men, he can make mistakes, but he would make them in good faith, without undermining the image of a straightforward man who has managed to impress that image in the minds of his people and of the world.

As for the moral aspects of his speech, Carter showed his patriotism by reminding his country that the greatest strength of the United States lies in its capacity to be fair. According to this theory, the present U.S. leadership, based on its indisputable strength, can only be maintained if its actions bear the seal of full respect for justice.

We feel that the American people's long and magnificent tradition of trust in the White House and their president has emerged once again, luxuriant as never before, expressed through President Carter's insuperable moral strength, which reinforces the prestige of the northern nation before the American continent and the rest of the world. Through gestures like his, the cause of justice, which seems to receive only minimal concern in today's world, has taken new root in the conscience of men, strengthening their faith and renewing their hope.

Editorial Lauds Canal Speech

PA032330Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 3 Feb 78 p 4a PA

[Editorial: "Far Beyond Words"]

[Text] Within a home-like atmosphere, as one who speaks to his fellow citizens about family problems, President Jimmy Carter appeared before the cameras of a national television network on Wednesday night.

His words were deeply profound, sincere and truthful and were filled with conviction and civic mindedness as he pronounced himself against the long-standing prejudices of the U.S. conscience, aroused in the past few months be reactionary prophets.

Unlike a citizen invested with presidential powers, Carter appeared in his speech like a man with the indisputable authority of a master. Throughout his speech, despite his simplicity of dress and speech, he took to every U.S. home, to the mind of every U.S. fellow citizen unalterable truths, endeavoring to destroy myths which misguided information had raised to the category of axioms of history, which Carter quickly dispelled as sophisms, as pseudotruths constantly repeated so that they would be recorded in the U.S. minds like the distorted sound of a bad recording.

Many of these recordings, trite and erroneous, were destroyed that night by the calm words, intermingled with smiles, of truth and frankness which President Carter delivered to the homes and consciences of his fellow citizens.

It was not until that night that many of those who saw and heard him learned that it is not true that the United States had ever bought the Panama Canal Zone. The lies spread by prophets to that effect, based on a nonexistent purchase, were shattered to the core by the lesson imparted to his fellow citizens by President Jimmy Carter.

He did not limit himself only to that but stated, with sonorous words--substantiated by the opinions of ranking officials of the administration, including the Pentagon, the armed forces and those involved in the nation's security--that the Torrijos-Carter treaty does not undermine the defense capacity of the United States, that this treaty is a better guarantee of the canal's continued operation than any armed defensive measure and that any right which this treaty grants the United States in matters of defense does not signify in the least that it grants the right of intervention into the domestic affairs of the Panamanian nation.

The speech and its results, which according to the U.S. press had a clear impact on public opinion, make one think that those who consider President Jimmy Carter as the most suitable man to restore to the White House its dwindling prestige, reduced even more by the negative Watergate incident, are not wrong.

The U.S. people, like any other people in the world, can clearly sense the high level of justice and civic mindedness which prevailed throughout his speech and which projected itself far beyond words.

Panamenists Score President Carter

PA031902Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1548 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Panama City, 3 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Panamenist Party, one of the strongest in Panama, today sent a letter to President Jimmy Carter protesting against the remarks he made on 1 February in favor of General Torrijos' regime.

"Mr. President, to assert as you have that in August the Panamanians will hold a democratic election is either the naivete of one who is misinformed or the cynicism of a fake politician," the Panamenists say in their letter to President Carter. In another section of the letter, the Panamenist Party criticizes Carter's assertion that the Panamanian regime is stable and it says that "9 years of oppression are not proof of stability. Instead, it proves the nonexistence of a regime of choice and changes in the exercise of government powers." Finally, the Panamenist Party says it believes the August elections are undemocratic.

PANAMANIAN RESPONSES TO CRISIS IN NICARAGUA

Committee Seeks Support for Nicaraguans

PA052111Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 4 Feb 78 pp 1-A, 10-A PA

[Communique issued by the Panamanian Committee of Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People--date and place not given]

[Text] The Panamanian Committee of Solidarity With the Nicaraguan People issues an urgent appeal to the Panamanian People at this time when our Nicaraguan brothers are suffering to a greater extent the cruel oppression of the Somoza dictatorship.

Recent events in Nicaragua indicate to us that the tyrant is prepared to drown in blood the rebellion of the people who refuse to remain under the iniquitous regime of Anastasio Somoza. The repressive massacre of the Nicaraguan people is pathetic in the cities of Grenada, Matagalpa, Rivas, Chinandega, Diriamba, Leon, Jinotepe and Masaya.

The jails and concentration camps are full of political prisoners and thousands of peasants have disappeared.

The Committee denounces the participation of U.S. and South Vietnamese mercenaries under the command of Colonel Ldtle [as published] and the presence of the Colombian mercenary Gen Jaime Rodriguez and Gunther Wagner, a former Nazi who is chief of police in Managua.

We should reflect on the fact that while the Panamanian people are enjoying the carnival celebrations, very close to us are people who are suffering and struggling for their liberation.

The Panamanian Committee of Solidarity With the Nicaraguan People requests:

That the Central American governments ignore Somoza's appeal to the Central American Defense Council;

That the Panamanian Government suspend diplomatic relations with the Nicaraguan tyrant in solidarity with the Nicaraguan peoples;

That the UN Human Rights Commission take an interest in the lives and safety of the political prisoners; and

That the Panamanian people express effective solidarity by donating medicines and clothing, which will be sent to the Nicaraguan people through the International Red Cross.

Donations may be taken to the Casa del Periodista, where a permanent office of the Panamanian Committee of Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People will be in operation.

[signed] Rogelio Sinan, president

Carlos Perez Herrera, vice president

Student Support for Nicaraguan Revolt

PA042120Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Communiques issued by the Popular Vanguard and Center of Law Students on 3 Feb 78]

[Text] In view of the critical situation being experienced by our sister country, Nicaragua, our organization, the Popular Vanguard [Vanguardia Popular--VP], wishes to express its solidarity with the oppressed and subjugated Nicaraguan people and to publicly condemn the crisis in that country which is the result of 40 years of tyranny. The heroic Nicaraguan people's patience was exhausted with the assassination of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro by the criminal hordes of dictator Somoza. We are informing the public at large of the support that the university students, the law school, the Executive Council of the Center of Law Students, the VP and other university and political groups have given to the Association of Nicaraguan Students in Panama, which peacefully occupied the UN office near Urraca Park on Wednesday. This occupation is a measure to inform the Panamanian people and make them cognizant of the serious situation in Nicaragua. The VP believes that one cannot overlook the poverty, oppression and terror the Nicaraguan people have endured during the 40 years of Somoza dictatorship which has the support of U.S. imperialism and the domestic enemies of the Nicaraguan people. Therefore, we believe everyone should be aware of the sufferings of our brothers. We believe that we should help the Nicaraguan people by giving them all possible material and moral support. We demand that the national government immediately suspend relations with the Somoza regime since it does not respect individual rights, human rights or the lives of peasants, workers and students who represent the most suffering and persecuted class of the Nicaraguan people. While America is not free, we will drop neither pen nor the sword.

Issued in Panama City on 3 February.

The executive council of the Center of Law Students [CED] states that whereas:

1. The Nicaraguan people have lived 40 years under the fascist and proimperialist Somoza dictatorship, which has brought only poverty and oppression.

2. The workers and the peasants have suffered the consequences of the enrichment of a few during the Somoza dictatorship.

3. The brutal assassination of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro by the regime brought about the unleashing of 40 years of resentment and discontent.

4. At a time like this, our Nicaraguan brothers are once again the victims of repression from the exploiting class led by murderer Anastasio Somoza.

5. The terror, bombings, arrests and murders are the orders of the day for the henchmen of the regime.

6. U.S. imperialism has given its military and economic aid to maintain the dictator in power for a long time.

7. The worker, peasant and student organizations have decided to struggle to the utmost consequences against the bloody regime. The CED resolves to:

1. Publicly condemn the Anastasio Somoza regime which with its henchmen have oppressed the Nicaraguan people and nation for a long time.

2. Support the Nicaraguan people and the Sandinist National Liberation Front in their liberation struggle.

3. Demand that the Panamanian Government immediately suspend diplomatic relations with the repressive government of Anastasio Somoza.

4. Repudiate the present and the past intervention of U.S. imperialism in the fatherland of Sandino.

5. Express solidarity with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people who demand the resignation of murderer Anastasio Somoza. Issued in Panama City on 3 February.

Charge of U.S. Aid to Somoza

PA050032Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 4 Feb 78 p 4a PA

["Vox Populi Vox Dei" column by Luis Restrepo: "Saturday Comments"]

[Text] The situation in Nicaragua has had dramatic aspects in the last few hours as the masses increase their struggle against the Somoza family and regime.

Well-known Forces, however, are already mobilizing to prevent by all means the victory of the Nicaraguan people, claiming that "Somoza is essential in the struggle against communism in Central America."

All Latin Americans know by experience what is sought by these measures, who is behind them and to what lengths they will go to maintain the present situation. That is wny we are not surprised by reports that mercenaries recruited in the United States are participating in the Nicaraguan drama.

These mercenaries might be jobless veterans of Vietnam and Angola. The only thing they know is how to kill, because that is what they have been taught. They cannot find jobs in their own country so they are sent to those countries where the antiliberationist policy against oppressed people is at stake.

It is said that they are recruited by private agencies. However, in Angola the "mercenaries" captured by the liberation forces said that those "agencies" were paid by channels which could be easily traced or identified. In London, Paris and other European cities agents, specially trained in these maneuvers, delivered the money that was paid to the recruits. Paper currency freshly printed by the mint of the western superpower was found on one of the "mercenaries."

What about evidence? It is contained in the official Angolan Government document signed by Angolan President Agostinho Neto in Sao Tome on 3 April 1976. The document contains the statements made by the "mercenaries" which reveal the means used by the superpowers in their struggle against oppressed people who are fighting for their liberation.

Furthermore, it has been clearly proven that the Jewish state plays an important role in the framework of the fight against the people's liberation. Israel supplies huge amounts of weapons, as proven by pictures in the Angolan document. The prisoners also said that they had received additional training at Israeli bases.

The road is long and passes through many places. Several years ago it led to Angola. Now it will probably lead to Nicaragua. It has also been said that there is a possibility that South Vietnamese soldiers who fled their country under the protection of the U S. Army might be used as a spearhead in the offensive to crush the struggle for liberation in Nicaragua and other Central American countries.

Somoza knows by experience that time works in his favor. It allows him to maneuver and to mobilize his protectors in the United States. He knows that the "ghost of communism" will be ably used to justify the mobilization of large-scale military aid even though it will have to be done through the murky means we know so well.

Somoza is also aware that despite the "present loyal oppositon," liberals and conservatives in Nicaragua dread when the people try to make their own decisions and rule the country's future.

When that happens the liberals and conservatives will fight against "communism," sacrificing the people once more, especially the youth.

The Nicaraguan people's struggle is hard and there are no clear prospects in sight despite the enormous sacrifices being made. The sphinx of the north, who follows the "domino" policy without having learned from the Vietnam experience, will play its cards in Nicaragua, ignoring the peoples' human rights and the large-scale genocide being waged against the Nicaraguan people.

The coming hours are very important. The people are continuing their struggle, which is not completely organized. This lack of organization will help the Somoza family and other interests who are working backstage to undermine the people's unity and to assure the stability of the sinister dynasty.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER DISCUSSES SUGAR WITH CUBANS

PA041908Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Officials of the Latin American Directorate of the Cuban State Committee on Cooperation have met with Agriculture Minister Lt Col Ruben Dario Paredes to discuss the expansion of the technical cooperation agreement between Panama and Cuba. The meeting was attended by Cuban Ambassador to Panama Miguel Brugueras del Valle and the vice ministers of agricultural development, and planning and economic policy. The Cuban ambassador said that his country currently has approximately 153 sugar mills. He reiterated support of Panama in the struggle to obtain better prices for sugar in the international market.

PANAMANIAN POLITICIANS SCHEDULED TO MEET IN MIAMI

PA052005Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 3 Feb 78 pp 1-A, 4-A PA

[Text] Panama City politicians will hold what has been termed a "summit meeting" in Coral Gables, Miami, with former President Arnulfo Arias Madrid, who lives there.

No agenda has been drawn up for the meeting which is being organized by Luis Felipe Clement, Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Endara who want political groups to work jointly regarding the upcoming elections.

Christian Democrats, Liberals, Republicans and members of the Independent Lawyers Movement will attend the "Coral Gables Summit." Among those who will attend are Carlos Ivan Zuniga, Carlos Enrique Adames, Fabian Echevers, David Samudio, Guillermo Cochez, Cecilia Alegre--who is in Miami--Jose Dominador Bazan and others.

This event, which will bring together prominent Panamanian politicians and Arnulfo Arias in Miami, has been mentioned as one of the efforts made by these groups to regain their legal standing for the coming elections. They are asking for complete legal recognition of the traditional political parties, changes to the 1972 constitution and other guarantees.

Although Arias' reaction to the meeting--set tentatively for 11 February--has not been reported, it is believed that he is very much interested in talking to the politicians who were either his former allies or enemies.

NEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT ON FREE ENTERPRISE

PA030327Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 2 Feb 78 PA

[Interview with Jose Diaz Seixas , new president of the Panama Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, on 2 February 1978 in Panama City--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Seixas, could you tell us if under your leadership the Chamber of Commerce will undergo any changes in its image before the community?

[Answer] I think that our image in the community is well established--that it tries to promote free enterprise in all its aspects, therefore it will continue to do so according to these same principles. The image will not change. Persons and their actions, which can be wise or unwise, change but our final purpose is always the same, that of allowing the development of free enterprise in order to establish a solid base for the country's economy.

[Question] Do you have a concrete program to attain this objective?

[Answer] We shall try to promote new ideas and new concepts together with the government in order to harmonize all the forces affecting the country's economy. When I speak of harmonizing forces, I am referring to capital, labor and the government because the government could not be expected to be the only employer. This would be a very heavy burden. Based on this, we must increase private investment in order to promote this effort and attain our goals.

[Question] Do you share the intention of your predecessor when he said that your group aspires to a dialog with the national government to at least discuss the country's economic problems?

[Answer] I definitely share this viewpoint. I think that we should do it. I believe that the government and our organization together with the workers can do quite a bit. Each group has its own experiences in its own field. I believe that there are social changes which are needed in the world to benefit our fellowmen in their socioeconomic development. We can do this together, finding positive means and mechanisms which will benefit both parts and not only one sector. If we do this I believe that the government and our organization can get together and do something positive.

[Question] Does this mean that your presidency will not make any substantial changes but, rather, will continue what has been done by the chamber of commerce before?

[Answer] The Chamber of Commerce, as I said before, has its bylaws which have guided it and has a continuity, because what we have is a partial renewal of its administrative personnel in which prior experiences are harmonized with new ones. But as the nation's economy develops, the Chamber of Commerce will adapt to these changes in order to attain its goals.

[Question] Do you see an immediate improvement in the Panamanian economy as a result of the canal treaty's ratification?

[Answer] We see an improvement in the economy but this will not take place immediately. If the treaties are signed this will allow the state to possess more means to become an employer which, as we said before, is not advisable. Investment must be promoted in an effective manner by creating the needed assurances so that the investor will bring in money and invest in the country. I do not believe that the economy should be improved based only on state investment because, otherwise, it becomes a paternalistic, directed economy and this is not the free system to which we are accustomed within the democratic framework of a nation's economic development.

BRIEFS

YOUTH FESTIVAL COMMITTEE--The National Preparatory Committee of the 11th International Youth and Student Festival to be held in Havana, Cuba, in July, was formally established in Panama on 27 January. Ivan Zurita, secretary general of the Panamanian Newsmen's Union, was elected coordinator general of the national committee. Carlos Gonzalez was elected Panamanian representative to the Permanent Commission of the International Preparatory Committee of the festival. [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 30 Jan 78 p 6 PA]

LIBERAL'S RESIGNATION--On 31 January, Gonzalo Tapia Collante, a prominent member of the Liberal Party, submitted his resignation from his posts as a member of the National Directorate and the Political Committee of the Party. In his letter of resignation to party President David Samudio, Tapia states that he is leaving his posts to make it possible for talented young members of the party to obtain positions of leadership. [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Feb 78, pp 1, 14 PA]

APOSTOLIC NUNCIO PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Msgr Blasco Francisco Collado, Panama's new Apostolic Nuncio, today presented his credentials to President Demetrio Basilio Lukas during a special audience at the Presidential Palace. [Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA]

COSTA RICA

REPORTAGE ON SUNDAY'S ELECTION FOR PRESIDENT

OAS Observers Arrive

PA042218Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1831 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 4 Feb (AFP)--OAS observers arrived in San Jose today to witness the development of Sunday's election. The observers are: Arturo Illia, former Argentine president; Ronald Reid Cabral, former chief of government of the Dominican Republic; Jorge Fidel Duron, former Honduran foreign minister.

The observers held a meeting today with the magistrates of the Supreme Elections Tribunal in order to be briefed on some aspects of the election process. The observers will be received by President Daniel Oduber and Foreign Minister Gonzalo Facio. The OAS observers were invited by the executive branch. This invitation is similar to what has occurred in previous elections.

CP Candidate Complains of Repression

PA052156Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2109 GMT 5 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 5 Feb (AFP)--Rodrigo Alberto Gutierrez Saenz, the Communist Party candidate running in today's elections in Costa Rica, has made charges of repression against the workers, it was learned here today.

The Costa Rican presidential candidate said that "there has been repression against rural workers on the part of the National Guard and the Rural Guard."

He added that "we are convinced that democratic rights must be consolidated in Costa Rica. Press freedom exists only for the powerful, and that is why we want the people to reorganize."

He said that financing for the electoral campaign is obtained from direct and indirect taxes paid by Costa Ricans, "but the resources only benefit the strong parties." The parties which obtained less than 5 percent of the votes in the election have no right to receive financing. For this reason, the respective law must be changed to grant financing equitably.

Regarding the Central American Common Market [CACM], Gutierrez Saenz said that it is an instrument of and a commitment between the regional bourgeoisie, and its development represents an expansion of the consumer market.

The collapse of CACM is due to the problems faced by the producers in the five nations, which manufacture the same articles.

"We are prepared to recover the country's wealth and to place it at the service of the people, because CACM is currently a regional market in U.S. hands," he noted.

Voting 'Normal'

PA052318Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] San Jose, Costa Rica, 5 Feb (LATIN)--Seven hours after the polls opened throughout the country, leaders of the two main opposing parties in the presidential elections were optimistic about their prospects.

According to election authorities the process is "normal" in San Jose Province, which includes the capital, and in the rest of the country only "slight" irregularities were reported in some cantons. Alvaro Carazo, son of presidential candidate Rodrigo Carazo of the Unity Panty, told this agency that "we are sure of victory because the people know what they want; that is, to do away with presidential continuism."

On his part, Roberto Castro, deputy coordinator of the organization for the National Liberation Party that nominated Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez, has given assurances that his party had won the elections. He said: "We have reports from several cantons that the number of voters for liberation candidates is more than expected."

Neither of the two leaders felt there was a possibility that their candidate would get less than 40 percent of the votes necessary to be declared the winner.

Both Carazo and Castro complained of "several irregularities" during the course of the elections, which started today at 0500 (100 GMT).

According to the opposition Unity Party, "there is an official watchword" of obstructing the votes of Carazo's supporters. In Carazo's complaints, he said that brigades of the official party are throwing tacks on the roads so that vehicles driven by Carazo's complaints, he said that brigades of the official party are throwing tacks on the roads so that vehicles driven by Carazists would sustain flat tires, thus delaying the transportation of voters to the polls.

"That is not true," said the National Liberation Party organization official who, among other things, in turn announced the arrest by the police--at the order of the Supreme Election Tribunal--of a Carazist caught buying identity cards from reported Monge supporters.

Early Results Reported

PA060455Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0436 GMT 6 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 5 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Rodrigo Carazo Odio, the opposition presidential candidate in Costa Rica, is leading according to the initial, unofficial results obtained by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. With 242 voting precincts counted at 2210 (0410 GMT), there were 19,348 votes for Carazo and 16,378 for Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez, presidential candidate of the ruling National Liberation Party. The total number of polling places is 5,097, which indicates that a sizeable number of precincts still remain to be counted.

Carazo and Monge were the favorites in the elections held today. There are six other candidates, but votes for them in the 242 precincts counted were very low. According to an estimate made by the newspaper LA NACION, which is issuing reports in an information pool formed with television Channel 7, results thus far indicate that Carazo may end up with 51.6 percent of the votes and Monge with 46.6. The figures gathered thus far by the electoral tribunal reflect a rate of abstention above the previous average of 22 percent.

FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORTS NO PROTEST FROM NICARAGUA

PA041732Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1717 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 4 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Foreign Ministry reported at midmorning today, Saturday, that it has received no note of protest from Nicaragua over alleged negligence on the part of the Costa Rican government in protecting the border between the two countries to forestall guerrilla actions.

Newspaper reports from Managua had said that Gen Anastasio Somoza's government would make such a protest on the grounds that the guerrilla units which attacked National Guard garrisons yesterday came from Costa Rican territory.

Foreign Minister Gonzalo J Facio said today that if such a protest were made, it would be emphatically rejected here because it would be unfounded.

"All information gathered here indicates that the Sandinist operations were planned days ago--that they were conceived and carried out on Nicaraguan territory," the minister said, after listening to the statements of some Nicaraguan guerrillas who had fled to Costa Rica after participating in the attacks.

THREE FSLN MEMBERS ESCAPE NICARAGUA, SEEK ASYLUM

PA032327Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2258 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Text] According to Public Security Minister Mario Charpentier Gamboa, three members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] have entered Costa Rican territory and have requested political asylum. Reportedly, one of them had been wounded in the face and was immediately taken to the Liberia hospital. The other two men were taken to the local command to be placed under the vigilance of the local authorities.

It has been reported that the three FSLN members arrived at one of the farms located in the border area and requested asylum. According to the three asylees, they participated in the clashes that took place last night and early this morning in Rivas. The three persons said they had walked (?through) the mountains until they reached the border area, when they then requested political asylum.

Meanwhile, Minister Charpentier reported that the situation at the border is completely calm and that the bombings have been suspended. He said that the Costa Rican police--through the Rural Aid Guard--which sent a supportive unit there, remains vigilant and alert in case of any new development.

SECURITY MINISTER COMMENTS ON NICARAGUA BORDER SITUATION

PA031929Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Costa Rican Public Security Minister Mario Charpentier has made statements on the serious situation in Nicaragua.

[Charpentier--begin recording] Thank you for this opportunity to tell everyone that the situation is calm throughout the country. Last night there was fighting on the Nicaragua side of the northern border. Since we are neighbors, we have been forced to take necessary measures. Right now, the northern border is practically closed. The offices on the Nicaraguan side are not operating and we have proceeded to close our borders. Therefore, we recommend to those who had been planning to travel to the northern zone, to the Penas Blancas border, to abstain from doing so. We are turning back the trucks at the Penas Blanca border post.

We have also evacuated the persons who live very close to the border as a protective measure. We have a small Rural Guards detachment at the border post to protect the few residents still living close to the border. Our measures are actions designed to prevent any harm to Costa Ricans. We will follow very closely the situation in the sister country of Nicaragua.

[Question] You have spoken of bombings and the (?arrest) of Costa Rican truck drivers. What else can you tell us about these military actions on the border zone?

[Answer] I can tell you that the bombings have been heard by our officials and they have reported them to me. Regarding the arrest, that has been unconfirmed. It was reported that a truck was hit by a rocket and that its occupants had been arrested. The truck is reportedly from Costa Rica. But I repeat: This is an unconfirmed report. What has been confirmed is that clashes have occurred and airplanes have been used. This forces us to take measures to protect Costa Rican citizens near the border. We have also taken measures in case some [Nicaraguan] civilians might want to migrate to our territory to find safety.

AUTHORITIES SEIZE FSLN ARSENAL AT BORDER POST

PA052158Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2130 GMT 5 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 5 Feb (AFP)--It was announced here today that Costa Rican authorities have seized arms at the Penas Blancas border post between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The arms were to be sent to the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

The arsenal, which the persons transporting it valued at between 600,000 and 800,000 colones ($300,000 and $400,000), was brought to San Jose last night and delivered to Government Minister Milton Arias.

The weapons seized by the Costa Rican Rural Guard include a 50 mm anti-aircraft machinegun; ammunition for mortars and bazookas; M-1 rifles; bombs to destroy bridges; gas; a large amount of bullets and other materiel. The Costa Rican authorities also seized food.

The border authorities have said that the purpose of the armed action planned by the guerrilla group was to disturb the peace between the two countries and disrupt today's electoral process.

FACIO COMMENTS ON FSLN GUERRILLAS, BELIZE SITUATION

Facio on FSLN Guerrillas

PA052258Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2136 GMT 5 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 5 Feb (AFP)--Gonzalo Facio, Costa Rican foreign affairs minister, said he believes Micaragua has asked for OAS observers along the border, it was learned here today. Several clashes occurred recently at the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border between the Nicaraguan National Guard and guerrillas of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN). Some of the guerrillas fled into Costa Rica, abandoning their weapons. Others were either killed or wounded. One of them, of Costa Rican origin but whose parents are Nicaraguan, is in a hospital in Costa Rica. "The situation is that approximately 70,000 Nicaraguans, many of whom are undocumented, are living in Costa Rica after having crossed the border illegally," Facio said.

Facio Supports Guatemala on Belize

PA052257Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2134 GMT 5 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 5 Feb (AFP)--Gonzalo Facio, Costa Rican foreign affairs minister, has said that his country maintains its support for Guatemala in the case of Belize, it was learned here today. Facio said he hopes a peaceful solution will be found during Guatemala's negotiations with Great Britain but declined comment on the formula to partition Belize except to say that it is not new.

EL SALVADOR

POLICE FRUSTRATE OPPOSITION'S ANTI-SOMOZA MEETING

PA031412Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1220 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] With the purpose of insuring the exercise of liberty and individual rights of the Salvadoran community, public order and the general welfare of citizens and in compliance with the recently approved Law on Defense of Public Order, security corps agents posted at strategic points in the metropolitan area of San Salvador yesterday prevented a meeting organized by the opposition parties--Christian Democratic Party, National Revolutionary Movement, and National Democratic Union Party--and Nicaraguan residents in the country in support of the struggle of the Nicaraguan people against the regime of Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle, who is facing an 11-day strike following the killing of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

WORKERS OCCUPY UN OFFICES IN SAN SALVADOR

PA031909Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1717 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The offices of the UN Information Center for Central America and Panama, located 3 km west of San Salvador, were occupied today by workers identified as members of the Workers' National Union and affiliated to the union of Izalco sugar mill workers. The occupation reportedly was carried out peacefully to "denounce the Salvadoran Government's abuse of human rights." The workers told ACAN-EFE that they would not evict the UN employees or hold them as hostages but would let them stay or leave, as they wished. The UN officials told ACAN-EFE that for the time being they would remain at their posts. They looked calm and said they had not been mistreated in any way. The workers who are occupying the offices have listed their demands, which include the release of union leaders arrested last Tuesday for calling a strike at the Izalco sugar mill, 59 km west of this capital. The United Nations is being asked to intervene in this specific case.

Hostages Held

PA031910Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1824 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 3 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The agricultural workers who today occupied the Un Information Center for Central America and Panama are holding seven hostages in support of their demand for UN intervention to obtain the release of 120 workers. The 120 workers were arrested on 31 January at the Izalco sugar mill for calling a strike for a bonus, compensation for overtime and other benefits, the workers at the UN offices said. Initially their spokesman told an ACAN-EFE correspondent that no hostages would be taken but later it was confirmed that they were. "There have to be hostages. Otherwise, things would go badly for us," several of the workers told the news agency.

Occupation Ends

PA050428Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0037 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran agricultural workers who occupied the local UN office today and held seven hostages, voluntarily vacated the offices tonight after they were promised that a request would be made for a UN commission to investigate human rights.

The approximately 40 workers barricaded themselves in the office and demanded that 120 workers of the Izalco sugarmill, who had been arrested for declaring a strike in demand of social benefits and wage increases, be released; that all political prisoners in the country be released; and that relatives of the arrested sugarmill workers be allowed to join the workers barricaded in the UN office.

Englishman Timothy Painters, chief of the UN Information Office here, told the workers that he would ask the United Nations to send a commission to investigate human rights in El Salvador. With this promise and after long talks in which Monsignor Ricardo Urioste also participated, Salvadoran Red Cross officials arrived at the request of Painters and the Monsignor to escort the seven hostages and the workers out of the offices. This was done to protect the workers from being arrested by the police. Afterward, the police guarded several parks inside the city in order to prevent the workers who had occupied the UN office from holding a rally.

ENVOY TO NICARAGUA RETURNS TO REPORT ON SITUATION

PA041558Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0249 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Feb (AFP)--Retired Col Jose Florencio Iraheta, Salvadoran ambassador to Nicaragua, arrived here today. He had been summoned by the Salvadoran Government to report on the situation in Nicaragua.

It was reported today that Salvadoran transporters have suspended trips to the south in view of the tense situation existing in Nicaragua, where authorities have closed the borders.

The closure of the customs offices caused concern among Salvadoran businessmen, since the largest markets for Salvadoran industries are in Nicaragua and Costa Rica, which are now out of reach because of the measure.

REGIONAL COMMERCE AFFECTED BY NICARAGUAN SITUATION

PA041912Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1720 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Regional commerce has been seriously affected by the present strike in Nicaragua, staged to demand a genuine, exhaustive investigation of the assassination of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro and the resignation of Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle, who is accused of having planned Chamorro's assassination.

SERCANO's offices in El Salvador were informed that hundreds of railroad cars are idle because of the strike in Nicaragua, and many businesses are paralyzed for the same reason.

Meanwhile, according to our sources, the situation in Nicaragua is worsening. Political parties, labor confederations, federations and unions, professional, trade and student associations, and other organizations have joined the movement in support of the Nicaraguan strikers, who are demanding the resignation of Gen Anastasio Debayle as president of the country and an investigation into the assassination of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

In the last 2 days, Thursday and Friday, agents of the Urban and Rural Security Corps have been posted in the main streets of San Salvador and in Libertad Plaza to prevent demonstrations in support of the Nicaraguan strikers under the recently approved Public Order Defense Law, which prohibits demonstrations of this type, particularly if the proper permit for such public demonstrations has not been granted.

NICARAGUA

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON GENERAL STRIKE OVER CHAMORRO DEATH

LATIN: Strike Losing Support

PA0513197 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1220 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 3 Feb (LATIN)--There are indications that the 12 day labor-management strike is losing ground. The first indications of the alleged split in the commercial sector--which is the main supporter of the strike--emerged yesterday with the reopening of the Lang Hardware Store, one of the country's most important ones and whose owner, Federico Lang, is linked to the Somoza family. The reopening of banks and financial institutions of the private sectors, by order of their boards of directors, also seems to have discouraged the strike leaders.

Nevertheless, the most important event psychologically was a series of announcements posted on the bulletin board of the National Development Institute (INDE), bastion of the movement.

"It would be the worst time for private enterprise to stop supporting its offensive to force the establishment of an honorable government in Nicaragua," an unsigned notice said. "If we now take a step backward in our efforts, the people who have given all they could, with more courage than we have, will demand explanations," it added.

The unsigned notice, whose authors appeared to be members of groups of small businessmen exerting pressure on private sector leaders, alluded in its mention of "the others of the mountain" to the Sandinist National Liberation Front. The principal guerrilla organization in the country decided to steer clear of the strike considering it "a maneuver of the bourgeoisie doomed to failure," according to a communique that was also on the INDE bulletin board.

It seemed as if the overwhelming enthusiasm of previous days had disappeared from the faces of men and women who had posed the biggest business challenge to Somoza. One of the private sector leaders described the situation in this way: "We are in the 11th day of the strike and many have given their utmost and are exhausted."

Unofficial estimates indicate that the strike is costing $2 million daily in direct losses to the business sector, not to mention a reduction in the Gross National Product and a sharp drop in sales tax revenue for the government.

Meanwhile, there are small cells of popular resistance in the cities of Leon and Matagalpa, where the National Guard has strengthened its garrisons to avert new outbreaks of violence during the elections. In Matagalpa, some 125 km north of Managua, Margarita de Amador, the only officially confirmed death, was buried yesterday. However, unofficial reports mention at least two more deaths.

Political observers consider it significant that at the last minute, after 10 days, just as some stores began reopening, government employees, mainly bank officials, joined the movement.

The Nationalist Liberal Party and its government partner, the Nicaraguan Conservative Party, will be the only two groups to participate in Sunday's municipal elections in over 130 Nicaraguan cities except Managua.

After an anti-Somoza tirade, which included the demand for the president's resignation, the Conservative Party decided at the last minute to participate in the elections to avoid losing its legal status. In a final communique, it said it would hold the ruling Liberal Party responsible for whatever happens. Conservative candidates have resigned in several municipal districts.

Due to radio news restrictions, newscasters are preparing daily news reports for reading in the capital's churches. This has been branded as "catacombs' journalism."

In an attitude similar to that of many Chilean women prior to the overthrow of President Salvador Allende, middle and high class women of Managua conducted empty pot demonstrations in several residential sectors during the night to protest against the Somoza regime.

FSLN, Troops Still Fighting

PA031331Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1300 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Text] We are receiving confirmation from Managua, Nicaragua, through a progovernment radio station that last night there were attempts by guerrillas to seize the cities of Granada and Rivas. However, the report from Managua states that the Sandinist guerrilla attack was unsuccessful. An anonymous telephone call we have just received at Radio Reloj from someone saying he is a spokesman of the Sandinist front indicated, however, that strong clashes are still continuing at dawn. The caller added that the attack was succeeding and that the Sandinists had not suffered any casualties.

More on Fighting

PA031521Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1458 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 3 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--According to a report by the progovernment NOVEADES newspaper, 34 men made up the guerrilla command which this morning attacked La Polvora Garrison in the city of Granada. The garrison immediately repelled the attack, forcing the attackers to fall back to other sectors of the city, located 45 km west of the Nicaraguan capital. The guerrillas, presumably members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), tried to set fire to the state telephone company building in Granada. Military reinforcements were sent from Managua garrisons to repel the attack, as helicopters kept a close watch over the situation. According to NOVEDADES, the entire city today is under strict military control. The attack on La Polvora Garrison occurred around 2200 last night (0400 GMT today) and lasted well into the morning, Granada firemen told ACAN-EFE.

The army was able to retain control of the attacked garrisons, both in Granada and in the southern city of Rivas, close to Costa Rica, which another armed group, presumably Sandinist, attacked early in the morning. From telephone calls made by ACAN-EFE from Managua it was learned that after intense shooting several fires have started in that city. This morning Rivas is being heavily patrolled by air and land units while the people--as in Granada--remain in their homes. Apparently the shooting is over but the extent of the fires is alarming. Firemen from the neighboring city of Carazo sent several units to reinforce the Rivas fire brigades. The armed clashes occurred after violent demonstrations--leaving several dead and many wounded--in Diriamba, Jinotepe, Masaya and Leon. This is the second time in less than 6 months that Nicaraguan army garrisons have been attacked by rebel groups. Last October, there was a large guerrilla offensive launched against the garrisons of Ocotal (north), San Carlos (southeast), Granada and Masaya (center-west, near Managua).

Costa Rican Border Closed

PA031528Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1515 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The situation in Nicaragua is worsening. There is considerable violence. The Nicaraguan National Guard is trying to find the guerrilla groups which attempted to seize several towns near the border with Costa Rica early this morning.

By order of the Somoza government, the northern border with Costa Rica has been closed as the result of the critical situation. Unconfirmed reports indicate that Somoza's planes have bombed several towns that were apparently in the hands of the Sandinists. We do not have exact details on the new developments.

Air Force Bombing Near Border

PA031634Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1550 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Text] This is a summary of the events that have been occurring in Nicaragua in the past few hours. The situation has turned critical in the sister country of Nicaragua during the past few hours; the Nicaraguan National Guard has had to bomb towns and mountain areas in an attempt to counter the attacks of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. It has already been confirmed that a truck belonging to a Costa Rican company was destroyed by bombs dropped by Somoza's airplanes when they tried to close off the escape of the Sandinists. The FSLN attack began at approximately 2200 when they took by surprise the towns of Masaya and Granada. Upon hearing about the Sandinist attack, the Somoza government immediately ordered the deployment of the National Guard. There was heavy fighting for several hours. Fires were reported in the city of Masaya. However, due to problems in communications, many of these reports were not immediately confirmed.

This morning, it was definitely established that the FSLN forces seized Masaya, Granada and Rivas. The National Guard immediately intervened, bombing the towns. The Sandinists had to withdraw to the south--that is, toward the Costa Rican border. The Nicaraguan Air Force bombed the moutain areas and a number of locations very near the Costa Rican border to prevent the Sandinists from fleeing into Costa Rican territory. This was when Somoza's planes partially destroyed a truck owned by the Maroto Company of Costa Rica.

It has been reported that airplanes can still be heard flying over the Costa Rican border. The border has also been ordered closed. We repeat: The Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border is closed right now due to the bombing of the Nicaraguan Air Force during the past few hours.

Right now, the Union of Central American Transporters is holding a meeting with Minister of the Presidency Fernando Volio Jimenez to discuss a solution to the current problem. The transporters believe that the paralyzation of traffic will affect the economies of Costa Rica and other Central American countries. They are suggesting that efforts be made through the OAS or the United Nations to insure that the Somoza government will respect the international route so that trucks can pass normally from one country to the other. The meeting is being held right now at Presidential House. As for casualties, we do not have details.

Somoza Implicates Costa Rica

PA031701Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1627 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Here are more details on the serious situation in Nicaragua. There were many dead and wounded in the heavy fighting that occurred last night and this morning between the Nicaraguan National Guard and the FSLN.

As we previously reported, the FSLN tried to seize the towns of Masaya, Rivas and Granada last night.

According to an official Somoza government report, six National Guardsmen have been killed and at least eight wounded in the fighting. The Somoza government reported that during the clash, the National Guard killed nine guerrillas. It added that at approximately midnight when the guerrillas had practically occupied Masaya, Granada and Rivas, the National Guard successfully counterattacked and forced the Sandinists to flee. They sought escape to the south, seeking to reach Costa Rican territory to take refuge. This forced the Nicaraguan and Costa Rican governments to close the border early this morning. The Somoza government dispatched many planes which bombed sites very near the Costa Rican border. A Costa Rican truck was partially destroyed by that bombing.

The official report states that at 2120 a National Guard post in Penas Blancas was attacked by the FSLN. At 2140, about 30 heavily armed men seized the city of Rivas. At about 2200, they also seized Granada. The official report adds that the guerrillas destroyed the post office and telecommunications office building. As a result, communications with Rivas were completely obstructed. The Sandinists set fire to several buildings and houses.

The report adds that at least 50 heavily armed men subsequently escaped in an ambulance and stolen vehicles when they realized that the National Guard was gaining ground. The report indicates that the Sandinists abandoned many weapons, including submachine guns, grenades, bazookas, M-1 rifles, grenade launchers, Molotov cocktails, dynamite, plastic bombs, M-16s, walkie-talkies and time bombs.

Somoza has tried to implicate Costa Rica: We repeat: Somoza has tried to implicate Costa Rica in the official communique issued in Nicaragua this morning. The communique informs the Nicaraguan people that the situation is under the government's control. It states that all of the weapons carried by the Sandinists are of U.S. manufacture and they were apparently obtained from an armory in Costa Rica. This is another of the assertions of Somoza in this morning's official communique, which apparently tries to indirectly involve our country with the Sandinists. It states that all those powerful weapons were obtained from an armory in Costa Rica.

The report indicates that 9 guerrillas were killed and 16 wounded in the clash with the National Guard in Rivas. In the counterattack in Rivas, three National Guardsmen were killed and six were wounded. Among those killed was the aide of the zone commander of the National Guard. In the communique, Somoza describes this as the most serious attack against the government by the FSLN during the past few months.

Formal Protest Lodged

PA032253Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2237 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua--Nicaragua today lodged a formal protest with Costa Rica for its failure to maintain vigilance at the border, saying that this situation allowed the crossing of guerrillas opposed to the government to President Anastasio Somoza, the government announced. A spokesman for President Anastasio Somoza said that the protest was sent to Costa Rican Foreign Affairs Minister Gonzalo Facio through diplomatic channels. The Nicaraguan authorities said that 14 persons, including 6 National Guard members, died in the clashes with the guerrillas, and that 24 persons were wounded. The guerrillas attacked at three points in Nicaragua--in the southern cities of Granada and Rivas, and at the Penas Blancas border crossing, according to an official Nicaraguan spokesman.

Radio Corporacion Closed by Government

PA031857Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] The SERCANO transmission channel from Managua, Radio Corporacion, has been closed by Nicaraguan Government orders. Consequently, Radio Corporaction cannot send, even directly, any information from Managua. Nevertheless, information on the situation in Nicaragua is being provided by SERCANO stations in Honduras and Costa Rica.

More on FSLN Attacks

PA032306Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2128 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 3 Feb (AFP)--The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] held the city of Granada during the night and for several of the early morning hours. The FSLN carried out two surprise attacks which resulted in many people being killed and wounded. The towns of Rivas and Granada were held by the FSLN for at least 3 hours. When reinforcements arrived from Managua the Sandinists had left both places.

It was reported from Costa Rica that Radio Reloj received a call from the FSLN confirming the attack. "Mission accomplished" the voice at the other end of the telephone said. "We have taken Granada and Rivas in Nicaragua. The National Guard suffered many casualties."

A North American named Walkson, who is apparently the Managua government's foreign press chief, said that the guerrillas had suffered at least nine deaths while the National Guard sustained three dead and six wounded in Rivas and three dead and two wounded in Granada.

It was also reported this morning that the FSLN had attacked army garrisons in Jalapa in the northern part of the country close to the Honduran border. President Anastasio Somoza admitted that the FSLN attack on Granada and Rivas had been the hardest blow struck at the National Guard, Walkson revealed. Walkson emerged today as Somoza's spokesman.

It is typical guerrilla hit-and-run action which took the National Guard by surprise in the two towns. The antennas of television Channel 6, owned by Somoza, were dynamited and brought down in the early morning hours. This channel, which goes on the air at 0900, is still off the air since damages have been extensive.

Somoza: 'Alien Forces' at Fault

PA040141Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0118 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 3 Feb (LATIN)--President Anastasio Somoza, whose government has just suffered one of the largest guerrilla attacks of the last few months, said tonight that last night's and this morning's attacks by the self-styled Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] are "desperate actions encouraged by fratricidal hate."

Defense Minister Gen Guillermo Noguera denied reports published in Mexico according to which the city of Rivas had been bombed by National Guard planes. "Completely false. Rivas is an open city and does not correspond [as received] to an armed institution to carry out such action," Noguera said. Penas Blancas, on the border with Costa Rica, Rivas and Granada were the scenes late last night and early this morning of heavy fighting between Sandinists and the National Guard.

Somoza, who had previously sent a formal protest to the Costa Rican Government concerning those attacks, said in his speech tonight over radio and television that "alien forces are promoting disorder." The president spoke while National Guard troops were pursuing almost 100 guerrillas with the support of planes and helicopters. The authorities said that the majority of those guerrillas entered Nicaragua from Costa Rica.

Border Opened to Returnees

PA040204Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0122 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 3 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaragua agreed to open its border posts to allow the passage of Costa Ricans living in Central American countries who are traveling to their country to vote in Sunday's presidential elections.

It also agreed to permit the departure from its territory of several Costa Rican buses and trucks that were in Nicaraguan territory when the order to close the borders was issued.

The order was given early this morning following the serious incidents in Rivas, close to the border, during the early morning hours when a Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] group tried to capture the army post there.

According to reports received by the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry, even though tension in the border region continues the situation has been controlled by the Nicaraguan army.

Late this afternoon, three Sandinists who participated in this foiled attack arrived in Costa Rica, where they were detained by the authorities.

The Costa Rican Government ordered the intensification of vigilance in this region in order to prevent incidents which could affect the normal development of this Sunday's electoral process in which the president, deputies and municipal councilmen throughout the nation will be chosen.

National Guard Communique on Attacks

PA040333Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0045 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Communique No 8 released by the Legal and Public Relations Office of the Nicaraguan National Guard on 3 February in Managua]

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Legal and Public Relations Office of the Nicaraguan National Guard [GN] informs all citizens that last night--2 February--and early this morning--3 February--several subversive elements coming from Costa Rica attacked the police headquarters in the cities of Granada and Rivas, whose troops, moved by their high morale and combativeness, constituted a decisive factor in repelling the attackers.

The attack on the Granada headquarters began at 2130 on 2 February. After 2 and 1/2 hours, the attack was repelled. Cpl Francisco Garcia, No 18,165 GN, and Pvt Cristobal Castillo, No 8,777 GN, and Santana Gutierrez S., No 26,117 GN, who were returning to headquarters in a taxi after finishing their duties as policemen at the stadium, were killed by subversive elements who threw a fragmentation grenade inside the vehicle.

CPl Rogelio Gonzalez R., No 24,976 GN, was assassinated in front of La Merced Church and two other soldiers were slightly wounded as they were returning to their unit. Two unidentified civilians were also assassinated by the attackers. In addition, Miss Maria Auxiliadora Salazar Largaespada was injured.

Three members of this subversive group--Marvin Palacios Chavez, Alejandro Mora Guzman and Roberto Montenegro Pastrana--were wounded and have been captured.

The buildings set on fire by the subversive group include the installations of the General Directorate of Telecommunications and Postal Services. In order to accomplish their criminal purposes and to allow the fire to spread to neighboring hourses, they threatened the Granada firemen and prevented them from putting out the fire by flattening the tires on their vehicles.

At 0130 on the 3d, there was an unsuccessful attempt to take over the Rivas headquarters. The attack was repelled at 0500.

Near the town of La Virgen, these elements killed Cpl Francisco Gonzalez B., No 18,312 GN; Pvt Juan Ortiz P., No 25,605 GN; and Pvt Modesto Cordoba C., No 24,964 GN, and wounded two patrol members. Back at the Rivas headquarters, four of its defenders were slightly wounded.

In their escape, the attackers abandoned the bodies of two of their peers. One of them was found inside a truck in which a 50-mm machinegun had been installed. The other was found inside an overturned station wagon, near the town of San Juan. Judging from the traces left, it is absolutely certain that several of the fleeing attackers must have been wounded.

The materiel seized by the authorities include: One bazooka; one 50 mm machinegun; a Gara rifle; a fragmentation grenade; three Johnson machinegun rifles; several boxes containing explosives, dynamite sticks, nipple bombs; one walkie talkie; a terrorist device with a clock detonator; a roll of detonating cord; one roll of dynamite fuse; three (?b)-type explosive tubes; military equipment; documents; ammunition for 30-caliber bazookas, Gara rifles and 30 and 50 caliber carbines; one truck, one car and two station wagons.

The terrorists carried out other acts of vandalism, including the burning of the businesses owned by Carlos Lacayo, Carmem de Ibarra and Armando Lopez. On the same evening, a group of invaders who came from Coata Rican territory twice attacked the Penas Blancas post. Former GN Humberto Cruz Guevara, a deserter from the Nicaraguan National Guard, was shot in the attack. Cruz Guevara had been granted asylum in Costa Rica. The defenders of the Penas Blancas headquarters did not suffer any casualties. The police continue to patrol the area and persecute this group of delinquents that has tried to disturb public order. The authorities are maintaining order and are in full control of the situation throughout the country.

[Signed] Aquiles Aranda Escobar, Colonel, legal corps of the National Guard and chief, Legal and Public Relations Office of the Nicaraguan National Guard.

U.S. Embassy Gives Somoza Ultimatum

PA040341Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 0233 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Guatemalan tourists revealed a few minutes ago by telephone the following information:

Authorized spokesmen of the Democratic Liberation Union [UDEL], which groups all the civic entities in Nicaragua striving for the country's democratization and demanding President Gen Anastasio Somoza's resignation, revealed that the U.S. ambassador in Managua delivered an ultimatum to the government that gave it a Monday deadline to restore confidence and security in the country. This ultimatum practically gives General Somoza and his government 3 days of life.

Meanwhile, demonstrations and repression by security forces continue in Managua, Matagalpa, Leon and other cities. The repression could be the result of the situation involving a lack of guarantees in which the diplomatic corps finds itself as well as pressures from abroad against the Somoza regime. It is believed that Somoza, due to his latest statements, is feeling this foreign pressure. In these statements, trying to express some calm, he said that he will not give up his post until 1981 when his second term is up, and that it could be to some Liberal--that is, to one of his own party members. These statements could have been analyzed in the United States and considered as inappropriate due to the situation existing in Nicaragua.

Somoza 3 Feb Speech

PA040407Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Speech to the nation by Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza on 3 February--live or recorded]

[Text] Fellow Citizens: It has been the irrevocable aim of my government to comply with the precepts of our political constitution as well as with all laws regulating the destiny of our nation. Faithful to this principle, in my capacity as president of the republic I remind Nicaraguans that they must fulfill their civic duties, especially now that elections are going to be held for members of the municipal councils throughout the nation. In accordance with Article 246 of our political constitution, the municipal councils, composed of a mayor, a trustee and a treasurer, must be elected together with the council members' respective alternates through popular and direct vote for a period of 3 years and in accordance with the electoral law. These citizen rights are binding and the full exercise of these rights helps strengthen representative democracy in Nicaragua in a practical manner.

The elections of municipal authorities are handled by the electoral power, which is independent from any other power. The Nicaraguan National Guard, an apolitical body, guarantees order so that each citizen may freely cast his vote for his candidate, since suffrage is one of the fundamental human rights.

These elections are the result of national coexistence and dialog, and in the future we will continue to hold dialogs. Tomorrow's [as heard] vote is the genuine expression of the Nicaraguan people to keep things from being solved through violence. For all these reasons, I appeal to Nicaraguans to go to the polls on Sunday, 5 February, and to reaffirm their right to vote and their devotion to the fatherland and its political ideals. I am convinced that groups of agitators are trying to block this civic march of all of us Nicaraguans who seek peace and progress. We will show to the nation and to the entire world our uprightness and determination to continue progressing within the framework of peace.

My government guarantees order, peace and social stability in spite of the fact that alien forces are promoting disorder by trying to disrupt the peace and welfare of the Nicaraguan people. As president of the Nicaraguans, I comply with the duty of informing the people of the facts surrounding the political events we are presently experiencing.

As I told you in the port of Corinto, this situation has been simmering for some time and culminated with the position of requesting my resignation, which is contrary to the popular will and to the constitution of our country. Under this position, they have promoted a partial strike, ignoring the fact that the government has at its disposal all the civic means to see that every political and economic activity will follow its course without the participation of those who believe that they have sufficient power to overthrow the government, which was legitimally established.

We have confronted the situation with integrity and serenity and, as a result of this determination by my government and that of the Nationalist Liberal Party--which is also the determination of the people to live in peace and to continue their work--we are finding positive solutions to these problems.

For a ruler who seeks the greatness of his people, it is satisfactory to be able to report that thanks to the loyal and courageous cooperation of the National Guard, we have been able to provide citizens with the services and supplies necessary for daily living. As chief of state, it has been my constant concern, under Nicaragua's present circumstances, to seek civic and democratic solutions leading to a normalization of the country's economic life.

My government, which has over 50,000 collaborators, has been operating very intensely, carrying out its activities in the farming (?areas), in the cities and in every area that has been affected by the partial strike. We have remained vigilant and on the alert at all times because within the democratic process there are many ways to file civic petitions without having to resort to violence, which only brings harm to the nation.

The citizenry is aware that our position has always been sincere, flexible, but firm. Nevertheless, last night we suffered with patriotic sadness the attacks on the National Guard garrisons in Granada and Rivas. This is not civism; it is not a reply to our prudent and peaceful attitude. Rather, this is violence and terrorism. I want us all to be aware that any direct or indirect support given to these individuals is against the law and the interests of the economic life of Nicaragua and the people themselves. The desperate action of last night's violence was promoted by fratricidal hate and leads only to destruction and the senseless death of children of the fatherland.

As supreme chief of the armed forces of the republic, as president, I render homage and recognition to the memory of the soldiers who have fallen while defending peace and national sovereignty and to the memory of the innocent citizens who died in the crossfire.

To conclude, I wish to reiterate to the Nicaraguan people that on Sunday, 5 February, we have the civic duty to go to the polls in order to confirm once more that we in Nicaragua are living under a democratic postulate. By going to the polls, we will strengthen representative democracy and will elect those who will direct the destiny of our municipalities. No violence, strike or attitude has prevented us from continuing to enjoy our constitutional guarantees. One of them is to cast our votes without fear and freely at the polls on Sunday, 5 February. Thank you.

Costa Rican Border Remains Closed

PA041236Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1211 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 4 Feb (LATIN)--Nicaragua kept its border with Costa Rica closed today in the wake of armed clashes which took place yesterday in the Nicaraguan town of Rivas, some 60 km from the Costa Rican border.

The Nicaraguan Government accused Costa Rican authorities of allowing the guerrilla offensive to be launched from that country. However, Costa Rican Public Security Minister Mario Charpentier last night emphatically denied the charge. Charpentier said that three guerrillas who took refuge in Costa Rican territory had told local authorities that the attack on Rivas was carried out within Nicaragua. According to Charpentier, shortly after the attack on Rivas, Nicaragua closed the border with Costa Rica and has only permitted certain vehicles to cross to Costa Rican territory through the Penas Blancas outpost.

Costa Rica, according to the minister, has not ordered the border closed, but has stepped up vigilance along the border by certain Civil Guard detachments. The minister said that at this time the situation along the border is absolutely calm.

The three Nicaraguan guerrillas mentioned entered Costa Rica after the attack on Rivas. Authorities identified them as Alejandro Martinez Saenz, Pedro Pablo Meneses Jarquin and Moises Henriquez Ruiz. According to Charpentier, Henriquez was shot in the jaw during the raid on Ribas. Henriquez is in a hospital and his two comrades are under arrest at the Liberia Garrison, 80 km from the border.

The authorities arrested Bosco Centeno Arostagui and Jose Sobalbarro in Liberia. The two had obtained political asylum in Costa Rica after the attack on San Carlos, Nicaragua, in October of last year. They had been forbidden to leave San Jose, and were certainly not allowed to approach the border with Nicaragua, Minister Charpentier told LATIN last night. Costa Rica and Nicaragua had become involved in a conflict after the attack on San Carlos by Sandinist guerrillas, but the incident had been resolved satisfactorily.

Violence Continues Despite Apparent Calm

PA041314Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1129 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 4 Feb (AFP)--The outbreak of armed fighting in several areas and continuous antigovernment demonstrations characterized the panorama today in this Central American country, which has been partially paralyzed by a strike since 24 January. However, to a newly arrived person in this city, all would seem to be calm. While it is rumored here that police forces from El Salvador and Honduras are supporting the Nicaraguan National Guard, observers note that despite generalized rejection of Anastasio Somoza's regime, Somoza remains firmly in power as a result of the support of the army and certain sectors of the public which have openly declared themselves to be pro-Somoza. Nevertheless, popular movements against the government are proliferating. Last night, for the third consecutive time, people took to the streets in various parts of Managua to participate in pots and pans demonstrations in which mostly women and children pounded on various cooking utensils. Yesterday, 70 engineers and 200 technicians of the Public Workers Ministry's Department of Highways joined the general strike in demand of justice and liberty in the country. Meanwhile, the government has begun to attack the private sector, which until today has promoted the strike by closing businesses and industries in the wake of the death of opposition leader Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. Officials and workers at the Esso Standard Oil refinery complained that after the National Guard intervened, they were forced to work for over 48 hours without a break and had been virtually held prisoner within the installations, where they have been kept under close surveillance. Several groups of Guatemalan students attending the Central American Business Administration Institute (INCAE) have begun to leave Nicaragua, fearing that the situation will worsen.

The communications media, with the sole exception of LA PRENSA newspaper, are under strict government control. However, this control has stimulated the circulation of rumors among the people, which in turn stimulates the antigovernment movement. Last night, for example, it was rumored here that Jose Somoza, the Nicaraguan president's brother, had been shot to death by Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero, "Chiquin," the commandant of the basic infantry training school and the president's oldest son. However, it was impossible to obtain either a confirmation or a rebuttal of the rumor from official sources. It was also learned last night that a truck belonging to a Costa Rican company was attacked by the National Guard last night near the town of Penas Blancas, some 120 km southeast of Managua. It was learned here that the Costa Rican Government has asked the United Nations to intervene to clear up the matter of the attack on the vehicle, which belongs to the Morato company of Costa Rica. It was learned in Managua that certain communications media, such as Radio Reloj, had demanded that Daniel Oduber's government break diplomatic relations with Nicaragua.

Clash Near Managua Army Post

PA041712Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1647 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 4 Feb (AFP)--An armed clash broke out today near the 1st Armored Battalion base in Managua, headed by the son of President Anastasio Somoza. However, 8 hours after the incident, there was no report on dead or wounded. The action has increased tension and concern throughout Nicaragua, which is deprived of communication media following the government's intervention of radio and television. The government launched a civic offensive asking the people to vote in the municipal elections scheduled for tomorrow, Sunday. Political circles say only the official Liberal Nationalist Party will participate in the election, in view of the refusal by the opposition groups gathered around the Democratic Liberation Union (UDEL) to "participate in this pseudodemocratic electoral show," as described by an anti-Somoza spokesman. Somoza is at his Montelimar residence, some 60 km south of Managua, where he sometimes receives foreign correspondents for personal interviews. Communications with the outside world, meanwhile, are good although often interrupted, without knowing whether such interruptions are caused by the state communications company's traditional inefficiency or by government actions.

Somoza on FSLN Attacks

PA042212Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2117 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 4 Feb (LATIN)--In the past 48 hours, guerrillas belonging to the self-styled Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] carried out several offensives, attempting to seize the National Guard barracks in the towns of Rivas and Granada and the Penas Blancas border post near Costa Rica. The official death toll is 12. Another 30 persons were wounded as a result of these actions. President Anastasio Somoza stated today that the guerrillas who survived the attacks against the Granada, Penas Blancas and Rivas Barracks "are probably in Costa Rica by now." Referring to reports according to which two of the five Sandinists who were captured yesterday had also participated in the attack on the San Carlos barracks last October, Somoza stated: "I think that the Costa Rican Government should increase its surveillance on these persons because otherwise they will get the Costa Rican Government involved." Somoza spoke to this news agency during a tour through this capital with U.S. television cameramen. Referring to reports in the Mexican news media according to which Nicaraguan planes bombed the city of Rivas, Somoza affirmed: "That is a lie."

Somoza said that at noon today the situation in Rivas and in the south of the country was stable. Everything is under control and the citizens are getting ready to participate in tomorrow's municipal elections, he added. When asked if there had been more clashes, Somoza noted: "Thus far, no." President Somoza was interviewed by this news agency when he left the military hospital where he visited National Guard members who were wounded during the Sandinist attacks against several barracks Thursday night and early Friday. Somoza said that none of the wounded soldiers is in critical condition and that "all of them were very brave." Shortly before visiting the hospital, Somoza had toured Managua with a group of U.S. television cameramen. When passing the offices of the opposition daily LA PRENSA, Somoza's car stopped and he stepped out, apparently to show the cameramen the ruins of the First National City Bank building across from the LA PRENSA offices. The bank was destroyed during the disorders that broke out the day after the assassination of LA PRENSA director Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. As soon as LA PRENSA personnel noticed the presence of Somoza, they--approximately 200 persons--gathered in front of the building, some 60 meters away from him. Somoza raised a hand to greet them but the newspaper's employees made the "V" for victory sign and waved their arms while shouting "go, go, resign." Somoza smiled, stepped into his heavily guarded automobile and resumed his tour through the rest of the capital.

U.S. Embassy Employees Join Strike

PA042224Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2033 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 4 Feb (AFP)--Approximately 30 female employees of the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua and employees of the Nicaraguan Agrarian Institute today joined the general strike affecting the country. In both cases, the new strikers issued communiques explaining that there must be solidarity with the workers of other institutions and organizations "in this struggle for liberty in the nation." The strikes were announced "for an indefinite period of time."

FSLN Guerrillas Captured

PA042226Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2032 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 4 Feb (AFP)--It was announced here today that five members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) have been captured by the National Guard. According to an official spokesman, the five guerrillas were captured in the town of Penas Blancas, on the border with Costa Rica, where in the past 72 hours there have been several armed clashes between guerrillas and the National Guard.

Special Election Measures Adopted

PA042307Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2048 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 4 Feb (AFP)--The Interior Ministry announced today that special protective measures were being instituted throughout the country "to guarantee the election process" tomorrow, Sunday. Government Minister Antonio Mora said that a series of population control measures had been adopted at the request of the Electoral Council to prevent disturbances from occurring during the 5 February municipal elections. Municipal authorities will be elected tomorrow, except in Managua, which does not have a municipal government. Managua is a national district. Its chief has the rank of minister and is appointed by the presidency. The measures adopted include a prohibition on the sale of alcoholic beverages from 1800 (2400 GMT) today through 1600 (2200 GMT) Sunday.

According to political opposition sources, voter abstention will exceed 80 percent, which would constitute a record. The same sources said that the electoral council had reported that "900,000 citizens wanted to vote." They added that this constitutes "a farce." It was recalled that the opposition Democratic Liberation Union, which has been joined by the Conservative Party--the only recognized opposition party--has called for people to abstain from voting and for them to join the strike, which became more generalized this week, demanding the resignation of President Somoza. The municipal officials will be elected for a 3-year period and the election is a national one.

FSLN Attacks Corinto

PA050227Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO network]

[Excerpts] Telephone reports from Guatemalan newsmen in Managua have provided the following information:

Alleged members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] today attacked the port of Corinto, 170 km north of Managua, and set fire to storehouses and 24,000 bundles of cotton, presumably to prevent it from being exported. The U.S. Embassy in Managua has commented on reports from the Mexican news media, confirming that there are U.S. mercenaries in Nicaragua who are helping the Nicaraguan National Guard counter FSLN attacks. In the past few days, the FSLN has attacked the National Guard barracks in the towns of Granada, Rivas and Penas Blancas.

Observers estimate that since the start of the movement against the Somoza dynasty, more than 50 persons have died. Eight of them died in the so-called empty pots operations that are being carried out every night at 2100 by housewives and children who constantly bang on kitchen pots and pans as a protest against the Nicaraguan Government.

Free Import of Staples Authorized

PA050434Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0410 GMT 5 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 5 Feb (AFP)--The Nicaraguan Government today authorized the importation of wheat flour, cotton seed oil, nitrogenized oil and lard and laundry soap as an emergency measure to supply the local market. It was reported that the government authorized the imports "without the obligation to pay the pertinent taxes" and that the wheat flour was even exempted from a protective tax established in October 1963. According to local economic sources, this measure, made public through the finance and economy and industries ministries, will prevent the shortage of these staples as a result of this week's strike.

Managua Police Communique

PA050440Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0347 GMT 5 Feb 78 PA

[Communique No 1 issued by the General Headquarters of the Managua Police Department, National Guard of Nicaragua--date not given]

[Text] The commander of the Managua Police Department and police judge informs that in line with the authority he has in his police capacity, he will not allow bonfires to be set or obstacles to be placed in the streets of Managua by persons who are trying to create disorder here. Since roads and streets are public and traffic must not be obstructed, this authority, which has responsibility for public order, has issued orders for the arrest and punishment of all violators in accordance with the law.

[Signed] Col Alesio Gutierrez, National Guard Infantry, Managua police commander.

Workers Vow To Continue Strike

PA050450Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0422 GMT 5 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 4 Feb (AFP)--A spokesman for the Nicaraguan General Labor Confederation, which groups 50,000 workers, said here today that "we will continue the strike as long as we can."

He said: "We do not care if the management sector changes its attitude toward the government." He stressed "the people's firm determination to end one of the dynasties that is the most offensive to democracy in America."

Somoza on Fuel Situation

PA051334Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1206 GMT 5 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 4 Feb (AFP)--Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza admitted today that the country has only enough fuel for 90 days. In a news conference, Somoza said that Nicaragua has enough refined oil for the next 30 days and enough crude for an additional 60 days.

With regard to the Venezuelan boycott, President Somoza said that that country is in a period of elections and consequently, the political parties have taken a position against his government by seeking to leave Nicaragua without fuel.

With regard to the alleged boycott by the Esso Standard Oil Company of Nicaragua, Somoza said that the company should honor its commercial relations with the Nicaraguan Government.

Finally, Somoza said that the crisis which his country has been experiencing is being resolved, and that he expects the situation to be normalized in the coming week.

LA PRENSA Director's Appeal

PA051955Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2052 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 4 Feb (AFP)--LA PRENSA director Xavier Chamorro yesterday appealed to all newspapers of America to denounce "the Anastasio Somoza government's repression."

According to Xavier Chamorro, "the Nicaraguan Government, after the abominable assassination of this newspaper's director (Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, whom he replaced) and the mockery of justice which motivated the Nicaraguan people's indignation, has continued to escalate repressive measures."

As evidence of the latter, he cited the shutdown of communication media and "a low and immoral campaign of slander through the government's radio and its publication, NOVEDADES."

FSLN Arms To Be Sent to U.S.

PA060046Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0033 GMT 6 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 5 Feb (LATIN)--A spokesman for the Nicaraguan Presidency disclosed here today that the Nicaraguan Government intends to send to the United States the arms confiscated from Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) members in the attack they staged at the end of last week against three garrisons in southern Nicaragua.

Norman Wolfson, a public relations expert hired by President Anastasio Somoza, announced that Raymond Molina, a Nicaraguan Presidency adviser, will present the weapons or their descriptions of make and serial numbers to the U.S. Congress so that it can determine how they reached the FSLN.

Wolfson added that Molina will also bring copies of the opposition paper LA PRENSA and recordings of Nicaraguan newscasts to show "how far freedom of the press goes in Nicaragua."

Wolfson also said that President Somoza had reported that today's elections were completely calm throughout the country.

NOVEDADES: Businesses To Open

PA060303Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0242 GMT 6 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 5 Feb (AFP)--The (pro-government) daily NOVEDADES reports today that the strike has ended and that as of tomorrow all businesses and the industrial sector will resume their normal activities.

According to the official daily, leaders of the various associations that have signed the communiques issued by the private sector council have said that they will resume normal activities tomorrow.

In today's issue, NOVEDADES urges the citizens to vote in today's municipal elections. However, reports from the departments of Leon, Rivas, Matagalpa and others indicate that there was widespread absenteeism.

Absenteeism at the polls was in contrast with the constant patrolling by the Nicaraguan National Guard of the nation's towns.

Exiles Appeal to People

PA060356Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0231 GMT 6 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 5 Feb (AFP)--The so-called Group of 12, composed of Nicaraguans in exile, has appealed to the Nicaraguan people to join the resistance against President Anastasio Somoza.

The group, which is made up of powerful capitalists, supported the attacks of the Nicaraguan Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] against the cities of San Carlos and Masaya in October. The FSLN attacks on the cities immediately gave rise to a request for a national dialog to review the country's social situation.

The dialog failed when the coordinators withdrew after the assassination of Nicaraguan newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. During the attack on San Carlos, the Nicaraguan National Guard violated Costa Rica's territory, prompting Costa Rica to lodge a protest with the OAS.

5 FEB VOTING LIMITED TO LIBERAL PARTY MEMBERS

PA051953Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1849 GMT 5 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 5 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Almost no one but members of the Nationalist Liberal Party (PLN)--the official party--are voting in today's municipal elections, which started at 0700 (1300 GMT) in the Nicaraguan municipalities.

According to information compiled before noon from Granada, Chinandega, Leon, Matagalpa, Corinto, El Viejo and Masaya, the absenteeism of Conservatives at the polls is "significant."

The Nicaraguan Conservative Party, the only party recognized officially by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, left its members free to decide for themselves whether or not to vote.

In Granada, Leon and Chinandega, absenteeism by Conservative poll jurors has been reported. The poll jurors are composed of five members: two Liberals, two Conservatives and the president, also a Liberal. The poll juries were completed with other Conservatives "invited" to occupy the posts of the absentees, or with Liberal alternates. The polls are being guarded by armed civilians with revolvers, shotguns or blackjacks, according to the importance or location of the poll. In several department centers "Liberal patrolmen" are transporting their fellow party members to the polls.

Some Conservative candidates, who decided to run against the Liberals feeling that they had a possibility of winning, tried to make last-minute campaign appeals over broadcasting stations but were rejected by the majority. [as received]

In the western city of Leon, a poll installed in the parish residence of San Juan District with the approval of Father Francisco Salar, had to be transferred elsewhere because of protests by the Conservatives.

In Granada, 45 km east of here, the Conservative candidate for mayor, Alvaro Chamorro, as he had promised, did not run. However, his running mates--candidates for treasurer and spokesmen--did. Chamorro is the Conservative Party's national vice president.

In Matagalpa, 127 km north, elections are underway amid an atmosphere of great tension as a result of recent disorders in the city that resulted in persons being killed or wounded and others arrested.

There was marked indifference on the part of the people toward the elections. In the suburban district of Guanuca in Matagalpa, young men lit bonfires protesting the elections. Pablo Lugo, the Liberal Party's candidate for mayor, left the city after two attempts were made to burn him home.

In the meantime, the other opposition parties place no importance on the municipal elections. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal, when asked at noon, had no report whatsoever on the elections.

More on Elections

PA0602115Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0122 GMT 6 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Hanagua, 5 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The general impression throughout the country this evening regarding the Nicaraguan municipal elections for mayors, treasurers and trustees in 133 municipalities--with the exception of the capital--is that there has been "much absenteeism."

Leaders of the governing Nationalist Liberal Party [PLN] in the towns of Somoto and Ocotal in the north have admitted that the people of the region were "indifferent" toward the elections. They said: "There are not many Conservatives (followers of the officially recognized opposition party) here but, frankly, we did not see the turnout we witnessed during the four registration Sundays of last November."

In Granada, Oriente and Matagalpa, also in the country's north, it has been confirmed that there was a one-sided vote in favor of the Liberals as a result of the marked absence of the adversaries, who practiced a "de facto absenteeism."

Election day went by unnoticed for many Liberals and even for public employees, who tomorrow will have the obligation of presenting their identification cards to show that they voted, according to a newsman who visited several areas in Granada Department.

In the city of Diriamba, Carazo Department, 27 km south of this capital, the citizens were also indifferent toward the municipal elections. The townspeople were concerned only with the Gutierrez family's burial of Francisco Gutierrez, a young man who was one of the 40 members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) who Thursday night and early Friday attacked the army barracks in Granada and Rivas, in the south of the country.

Gutierrez was one of the three FSLN casualties in those actions in which eight soldiers died.

The situation was definitely quiet throughout the nation. Politicians or various political groups that did not participate in what they characterized as "an electoral farce of the Somoza regime," such as Independent Liberals, Socialists, Authentic Conservatives and Social Christians, have stated that the election was "a new failure for the government."

CEMA SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL COMMITTEE MEETING ENDS

FL041641Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 4 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The 18th meeting of the CEMA Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation has ended with the signing of a protocol. In a press communique released at the end of the meeting, it was announced that the committee examined the proposals of CEMA-member countries aimed at cooperation with our country to implement the plan for the accelerated development of science and technology in Cuba. Much attention was also given to assessing cooperation in the most important problems in science and technology.

Prof Zoilo Marinello, president of the State Committee for Science and Technology, spoke at the end of the ceremony. Describing the meeting as historic and momentous, he stressed the great encouragement which the presence in Cuba of prestigious personalities known throughout the entire world represents for our science and technology.

For his part, Vladimir Kirillin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology of that fraternal country, pointed out that the decisions made by the committee will make possible the future expansion of cooperation with Cuba. Lastly, he wished successes to the Cuban party and government in all fields of the building of socialism.

Rodriguez Receives Delegates

FL040039Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, today received the chiefs of the delegations participating in the 19th meeting of the CEMA Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation being held in this capital.

Rodriguez told the chiefs of delegations of the Cuban Government's gratification because the important meeting is being held in our fatherland. He also was interested in learning the results obtained from the working sessions of the meeting.

On behalf of the visitors, V. Kirillin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology expressed satisfaction with the advances they noted on their tour of places of interest in our country. He also stressed the CEMA-member countries' willingness to fulfill agreements in connection with the accelerated development of science and technology in Cuba.

TWO AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH SOVIET UNION

Contract for Textile Complex

FL031842Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Soviet Union and Cuba have signed a contract for the installation of a textile complex in our country which will produce 80 million meters of fabrics annually. The complex, which will provide jobs for 6,350 workers, will be ready in 1980. It will enter into full operation in 1982.

Agreement on Surplus Materials

FL050046Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Today in Moscow, Cuba and the USSR signed an agreement to exchange surplus and unused products for technical production and other uses. At the same time, a protocol to establish future scientific-technical cooperation between the two countries was drawn up. Irma Sanchez, president of the Cuban State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, signed the document for our country, while Nikolay Martynov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, signed for his country.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ROMANIA

FL031650Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Feb 78 FL

[Text] A direct bilateral cooperation protocol has been signed in our capital by the Cuban State Committee for Science and Technology and the Romanian Socialist Republic National Council for Science and Technology. The protocol will cover cooperation between Cuba and Romania for the period 1978-80, covering medicine, energy, biology, agriculture and scientific-technical information.

HAVANA ON ETHIOPIAN TV REPORT ON FIGHTING

FL031646Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Ethiopian national television has reported on the armed forces and people's militia's successful counteroffensive in the area of the cities of Harar and Jijiga. In battles with Somali troops which entered Ethiopian territory, the Ethiopian forces captured large quantities of war materiel. Many soldiers and officers were taken prisoner.

The statements by captured Somali soldiers and officers, and also the war booty, show that the aggressive NATO bloc member nations are using the Mogadiscio government in their plans for open interference in the affairs of the states in the Horn of Africa region for the purpose of reviving the armed conflict and making it international in character.

CUBA RETURNS SMUGGLED MONEY TO JAMAICA

FL041936Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Feb 78 FL

[Text] It has been announced in Kingston, the Jamaican capital, that Cuba has sent to that country 273,000 Jamaican dollars that were found late last year by Cuban fishermen near Cayo Largo del Sur, east of the Isle of Pines. The money, illegally taken out of that country by smugglers, was found attached to a parachute.

During a press conference, Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley exhibited the 273,000 dollars which, he said, would be invested in the construction of a modern school in the western sector of the metropolitan area, where most of Kingston's poor families live.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Council of State, sent a letter to Prime Minister Manley informing him of the find and of the Cuban Government's decision to return the money to Jamaica. From the beginning, the letter says, for moral reasons and in keeping with the principles of loyalty and solidarity that characterize the excellent relations between the peoples of Jamaica and Cuba, we had decided to renounce our right to the money which legally could belong to our country.

The commander in chief suggested that the money be employed for the development of some social project for the benefit of all Jamaicans.

In his report to journalists, Michael Manley praised the gesture of honesty and solidarity of the Cuban Government and reaffirmed the close fraternal relations that exist between the two countries.

The letter sent by Fidel explains that Cuban authorities took some time to determine that the money was not counterfeit. The total found by the fishermen was 277,461 dollars, of which only 273,000 were in good condition.

Explaining contraband activities in currency carried out by antigovernment elements, the Jamaican Government chief said that they take place primarily between Jamaica and the Florida Keys on the extreme southeast of the United States and very close to Cuba. In any case, Manley said, it would be very useful if money illegally taken out by criminals would always fall in the hands of good friends such as the Cubans so that in that way it can be returned to the Jamaican people's patrimony.

FIGHTING BETWEEN GUERRILLAS, NICARAGUAN GUARD REPORTED

FL031839Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Violent fighting is being waged between guerrilla detachments of the Sandinista National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the Nicaraguan regime's National Guard in different places of Nicaragua. It has also been reported that the Nicaraguan Air Force has begun intense bombing of the region bordering Costa Rica.

An FSLN communique was circulated in the city of Managua asserting that the final battle against the Somoza regime has begun.

Violent fighting began last night in the Nicaraguan city of Granada between guerrillas and the National Guard when Sandinista fighters broke into the center of the city and surrounded the National Guard barracks.

Various sources report that at least four Sandinista detachments are fighting in various points of the city of Rivas, located in the department that borders with Costa Rica. It has also been reported that another fight took place between guerrillas and the military in the country's northern region near the Honduran border. Moreover, it is reported that the FSLN has taken the town of Rio Blanco, 130 kilometers northwest of Matagalpa, and took control of the National Guard barracks in a fast military action.

Army forces last night clashed with Sandinista guerrilla detachments in the city of Matagalpa and, despite military repression, the militant attitude of the people has not diminished.

Observers report that the city of Matagalpa, located east of the capital, is on a war footing. Streets are barricaded and the people are attacking the National Guard.

A general strike has been in effect since 23 January which has paralyzed Nicaragua's principal cities, such as Managua--the capital, Leon, Matagalpa, Jinotepe, Masaya, Rivas, Granada and Chinandega. In spite of the repression by the dictatorial Somoza regime and terrorist violence unleashed by the National Guard, the workers of the country's only refinery, which belongs to the North American consortium Esso, as well as the rest of the country's workers continue on strike.

The situation for the dictatorial Somoza regime has been aggravated even more with the disclosure that the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers has decreed a boycott on oil supplies to the Somoza government in solidarity with the Nicaraguan people's struggle.

Further Details

FL042025Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Armed clashes between the Sandinista National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the National Guard have taken place in Nicaragua in the past few hours. Press reports indicate that the Somoza regime's air force is intensely bombing the places where fighting has taken place and is destroying houses and vehicles transporting cargo.

Sandinista guerrillas have blown up the transmission tower of Channel 6 television, the property of Nicaraguan Government chief Anastasio Somoza.

The FSLN has distributed in Managua thousands of handbills announcing the time has come to overthrow the dictatorship which for more than 40 years has exploited and bled dry the Nicaraguan people.

The FSLN points out in a statement that it has been shown that the sitdown strike is not enough and it is necessary to convert it into an armed action. It asserts that popular insurrection is necessary. It also calls on workers to struggle to gain liberty and true democracy and urges the people to take to the streets to fight the dictatorship.

The FSLN states that peasants and workers have nothing to lose from this struggle but will earn the right to live, work and organize their own government. The Sandinista statement calls for taking the weapons that the regime uses against the people to organize detachments to defend the people's and national interests and to form struggle committees on each piece of liberated Nicaraguan land.

The Costa Rican Government is keeping closed the border with Nicaragua and has charged that the Somoza regime's air force has repeatedly violated national airspace.

MILITARY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED

FL041917Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The 15th founding anniversary of the Gen Antonio Maceo School of Combined Arms of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] was commemorated today at that school, located in Ceiba del Agua, Havana Province.

Div Gen Senen Casas Requeiro, first vice minister-chief of the FAR General Staff and member of the PCC Central Committee, on behalf of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, congratulated the school's directorate and professors, the party, Union of Young Communists and all personnel for the selfless work over the past 15 years to make a reality the wonderful task of training young officers. Casas Regueiro made special mention of the valuable assistance given by Soviet specialists who, trained and educated in the glorious USSR Armed Forces which this year are commemorating their 60th anniversary, have offered Cuba their knowledge and experiences.

During the ceremony marking the 15th anniversary of the Gen Antonio Maceo School of Combined Arms, which was held as part of the schedule of activities marking the 100th anniversary of the protest of Baragua, a military parade was held and a "tank port" was inaugurated. The latter is a modern installation for tank training. A military exercise and sports activities also were conducted and an area for the use of children was inaugurated.

The school this year was included among the military training schools at the higher education level by Decree No 14 of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee in recognition of the school's meritorious work and development achieved in the past 15 years.

The Gen Antonio Maceo School of Combined Arms has had 12 graduations of cadets, 3 of reservists, 6 of officers improvement courses and of several other courses in other specialties. The participation of school personnel in fulfillment of the honorable duty of internationalism with their modest contribution to the struggle of other fraternal peoples, in response to decisions of our party and orders of the commander in chief, should be highlighted.

Div Generals Abelardo Colome Ibarra, Rigoberto Garcia Fernandez and Francisco Cabrera, all three FAR vice ministers; Brig Gen Calixto Garcia, and Lt Gen Sergey Krivoplyason, chief of the Soviet military specialists in our country, attended the ceremony marking the 15th anniversary of the Gen Antonio Maceo School of Combined Arms.

LEZCANO CLOSES CDR SEMINAR

FL031659Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] National Coordinator Jorge Lezcano Perez gave the closing remarks at the national methodological seminar for cadres attending CDR organization study group. The seminar met for 3 days in Santa Maria del Mar in Havana City and was attended by municipal and provincial delegates from all over the country. Lezcano stated that the old work habits in the CDR must be eradicated to adjust to the new methodology which is the result of the First CDR National Congress. He stressed that the municipalities should devote systematic attention to the zones, and they in turn to the CDR's at the rank-and-file levels to improve and strengthen the management directives.

JAMAICA

REPORTS ON MALMIERCA VISIT, JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Malmierca Visits Westmoreland Paris

FL021623Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1314 GMT 2 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Accompanying the Jamaican minister of women's affairs Carmen Macgregor, Cuba's Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has toured several sites of interest in the Jamaican western province of Westmoreland. The Cuban foreign minister and his delegation spoke with members of the doctor and nurse brigade from our country who are working at the hospital in Savanna La Mar, capital of that province. At a simple event organized there, the Jamaican minister reiterated her government's recognition of the quality of the services lent by the Cuban doctors who have deserved the praise of the residents of the Savanna La Mar Region. Upon his return to Kingston, Isidoro Malmierca met with Arnold Bertram and Hugh Small, ministers of information and culture and youth and sports, who last night held a reception in his honor due to the fact that the Cuban foreign minister was ending his Jamaican visit today.

Discussion on New Economic Order

FL031721Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 3 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Prime Minister Michael Manley has received Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who has concluded an official 4-day visit to that nation. In statements to the press, the Cuban foreign minister said that during the talks, some ides were exchanged on attempts to achieve a new international economic order which is more just. Isidoro Malmierca stated: We delivered a greeting to Manley from President Fidel Castro who recalls with great affection the days he was in Jamaica, when he had the opportunity to develop closer contacts with the government and people of that country.

Communique Issued

FL031740Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1502 GMT 3 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Jamaico and Cuba will work actively for a successful sixth nonalined countries heads of state summit meeting which will be held in Havana next year. A joint communique issued by both governments at the conclusion of the official visit to Jamaica by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, expresses a resolute condemnation of colonial regimes still existing in the Caribbean region. And it stresses support for the peoples who struggle against colonialism for their independence.

The Cuban side expressed solidarity with the Jamaican people and government which, led by prime minister Manley, strive to consolidate their full political and economic independence. In the document, Cuba and Jamaica reaffirm the Puerto Rican people's right to self-determination, and they express their concern over the problems confronting Belizean independence.

In the joint communique issued by the governments of Cuba and Jamaica at the conclusion of an official visit to that country by Isidoro Malmierca, they expressed their concern over the increase of nondemocratic regimes and condemned all forms of fascism. In this sense, Cuba and Jamaica also condemned the Chilean regime for violating human rights. The joint communique adds that they reiterate their support for Panama's right of sovereignty over the Canal Zone and they count on the ratification of the new treaties.

Cuba and Jamaica view with deep concern the incidents occurring on the border between Vietnam and Cambodia and they consider that the long tradition of fraternal friendship as a result of the common struggle against foreign invaders should be the primary reason which allows the peaceful solution of this problem.

In the Cuban-Jamaican joint communique, both countries expressed their satisfaction with the triumphs of the Angolan and Mozambican peoples and their solidarity with the anticolonial struggle and against the apartheid of the South African population. In the document signed by both governments at the conclusion of the official visit to Jamaica by the Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, they reaffirmed their support for the Namibia national liberation struggle, under the direction of the South-West African Peoples Organization.

In the document, Cuba and Jamaica deplore the Somali aggression against Ethiopia and state that they hope for the cessation of hostilities in accordance with the principles established by the Organization of African Unity. The governments of Jamaica and Cuba support UN Resolution No 242 on the Middle East and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to establish a national state.

MANLEY MEETS WITH CUBAN MINISTERS

FL031910Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Jan 78 p 12 FL

[Text] Cuba's Minister of Health, Dr Jose A. Guiterrez Muniz and the Minister of Construction, Mr Jose Lopez Moreno, on Wednesday, January 11, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Michael Manley at Jamaica House.

The two men arrived in the island on Monday for a five-day visit.

Discussion lasted for just over half-an-hour and centered primarily on present relations between Jamaica and Cuba, and the possibility of maximizing cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the health and construction fields, a release from the office of the prime minister said.

The two ministers have been having discussions with officials in the Jamaican Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Youth and Sports in this regard.

The minister of health is expected to visit a number of local health institutions, including the Savanna-La-Mar Hospital where 22 Cuban doctors and nurses are providing medical assistance.

Also present at the meeting were the director of medical assistance in the Cuban Ministry of Health, Dr Narey Ramos and the Cuban Ambassador to Jamaica, His Excellency Ramon Pez Ferro.

Present on the government side were the Minister of Health, Dr Douglas Manley; the minister of youth and sports, Hon Hugh Small; the parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Health, Dr Winston Davidson and the parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Education, Dr Upton Robotham.

YUGOSLAV DELEGATION MEETS WITH MANLEY

LD022104Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1809 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Kingston, February 2, TANJUG--Jamaican Prime Minister and President of the People's National Party Michael Manley received a joint Yugoslav League of Communists-Socialist Alliance delegation headed by Munir Mesihovic, member of the LCY Presidency's Executive Committee.

In a cordial conversation, both sides expressed the wish for an all-round advancement of relations and cooperation between the two parties and countries and between the other socio-political organizations of Yugoslavia and Jamaica.

Prime Minister Manley accepted with pleasure an invitation for his party's delegation to attend the 11th Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia. At the same time, he expressed the wish for an LCY delegation to attend the Jamaican People's National Party Congress next September.

EDITORIAL ON COSMOS-954 VIEWS PERIL OF NUCLEAR AGE

FL031905Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 31 Jan 78 p 6 FL

[Unattributed editorial: "The Nuclear Threat"]

[Text] The fall of a Soviet satellite over the northern wastes of Canada is a fearsome reminder of the perils of the nuclear age. Ever since the awesome holocaust of Hiroshima in August 1945 mankind has lived in the shadow of possible extinction by weapons which have reached even greater potential for mass destruction.

The potential danger is even more frightening in the uncertainty about the technological and scientific factors which are outside the competence of nations like ours having no nuclear capability but being possible victims of radio-active fall-out.

A recent UNESCO publication estimates that the total explosive power of the nuclear weapons in the world's arsenals is equivalent to that of about 700,000 Hiroshima-type atomic bombs. If all or most were used most of the cities in the northern hemisphere would be destroyed in a flash and the bulk of their inhabitants killed instantly; and there would be lingering after-effects of radiation and genetic damage to the human race.

It may well be that the deterrent effect of the big bomb or long-range missile has in fact kept world peace, or rather restricted war to regional or isolated confrontations. But the employment of nuclear energy in other fields poses dangers which the satellite mishap so forcefully demonstrates.

The incident reinforces also the continuing sway of the two superpowers over the power relations of the world. It reminds us that any ultimate test of those contending powers is something the world cannot afford, and may not survive.

FORMER MINISTER URGES BAUXITE COMPANIES TO COOPERATE

FL031915Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Jan 78 p 16 FL

[Text] Former Minister of Mining and Natural Resources, the Hon Dudley Thompson, has asked the bauxite companies to understand and co-operate with Jamaica's national objectives as they relate to the joint venture agreements between the companies and the government. Speaking at the Jamaica Hilton Hotel, Ocho Rios, on Wednesday, Jan. 11 at the close of a three-day series of talks between government officials and the local heads of bauxite companies and their legal advisers, Mr Thompson set in context the joint venture agreements between the companies and the government, against a background of the new international economic order, the philosophy of democratic socialism and the national objectives.

Mr Thompson said: "I beseech you to take this opportunity to work together with us in the words of our prime minister "hand in hand towards the mountain top in a quest for social and economic justice and peace."

The minister said that the most important feature of the agreements signed with the companies was in the existing prospect for the spirit of partnership which can be fostered between Jamaica and the companies.

The partnerships, he said, is consistent with the philosophy of democratic socialism and the principle of non-alignment which asserts Jamaica's inalienable right as a sovereign nation to fully exercise its sovereignty over its natural resources.

Mr Thompson said that the government was fully cognizant of the problems which face the country and which are a direct cause of a dependent economy.

"The analysis which flows from this fundamental commitment impelled us to tackle our problems within the framework of a wider Third World place in the international economic system which has been universally recognized as different in terms of its capacity to provide an acceptable standard of living for its people," he said.

According to the minister the inability of the bauxite industry to improve the quality of life of the people should not be attributed to the machinations of companies operating here but rather to the structure of the world economic system and the inherent dependent structure of Third World economies.

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL021700Y Kingston Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Commonwealth Secretary Shridath Ramphal goes to Jamaica House this morning for talks with Prime Minister Manley. On his arrival at the Norman Manley Airport yesterday, Mr Ramphal said that his talks will deal mainly with the present situation in southern Africa, the common funds for the stabilization of commodity prices, and the present critical state of the negotiations on the new world economic order. The secretary general observed that in spite of some 4 years of talks about the new economic order no significant move has yet been made towards grappling with the severe economic problems which are facing developing countries.

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